

# UCU Elections 2020

## Send your postal ballot back by Wed 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020



***Supporting the successful industrial action at Nottingham College***

## Vote **Janet Farrar** for UCU Vice President

I love UCU. I care deeply about what happens to it.

Trade unionism is my life; I grew up in a household where my mum, dad and sister were all union reps at one time. I teach in a Trade Union Education unit at The Manchester College where I have a local branch role as Membership Secretary. I have a regional role as Secretary to the North West Regional Committee. I am incredibly proud of my national role; I have represented Further Education in the NW on the NEC since March 2018 and am currently Vice Chair of the Further Education Committee. I am a committed Labour party member, however I want to ensure that we listen to members from all political persuasions within our union.

Everyone who works in FE or has ever worked in FE knows what it is like. They know how incredibly frustrating it can be and how overwhelmingly rewarding. In my days of teaching GCSE English to students who largely did not want to be there, I had all sorts. Tables thrown. Crying (sometimes me). Threats – empty and otherwise. But I also had six-foot bricklayers knocking timidly on my door to mumble ‘thank you’ for helping them pass against all the odds. For not giving up on them.

I know what it is like to juggle these daily challenges alongside union duties – I have vast experience of representing members in a wide range of cases to great success. Although that is not why we do it, when a member is genuinely grateful for your hard work and moral support in their darkest moments, it means the world.

Something is changing in UCU. It started with the buzz around the USS strikes and continued with the election of Jo Grady as General Secretary. I want to be part of the union’s development. There needs to be a new focus on true democracy, transparency and accountability. We have an opportunity to regenerate.

I love this union and I know it well. I would give everything to the role of VP. I would do my best to bring the factions together. We all have loads in common; our fellow members are not the enemy.

We have to learn from previous mistakes and build real democracy in our union. This should not be in the hands of a scattering of activists but truly in the hands of the membership. We need to find new and creative ways to build power in our workplaces from the grassroots upwards.

**I want to be the Vice President of our union because I believe in it. We need unity. Please vote for me - I will work hard and will not let you down.**

For more detail on the policies I would like UCU to focus on, please see my election statement. If you want to discuss any of my views, please email [jfarrar4VP@outlook.com](mailto:jfarrar4VP@outlook.com). Twitter: [@janetfarrarucu](https://twitter.com/janetfarrarucu) #UCUtogether