

**REQUEST FOR NOMINATION -
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE HIGHER EDUCATION
GENERAL SEAT**

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Dear UNISON Higher Education Colleague

I am writing to seek your branch's nomination for UNISON's NEC Higher Education General Seat in the forthcoming election for 2023/24. The opening date for nominations is the 9th of January 2023 and the closing date is the 13th of February at 5 pm. A nomination needs to be agreed at a quorate branch meeting held between these dates. Nominations must be submitted through the CES online portal, details of which will be emailed to your branch.

My experience in representing Higher Education members is at National, Regional, and Branch level. For 10 years I held the position of the Chair of the National Higher Education Service Group Executive. This involved representing all Higher Education UNISON members in many important matters such as national pay negotiations and various campaigns on pay, pensions, equalities, devolution, green issues and health and safety, to name but a few. I am currently a member of the National Higher Education Service Group Executive for the Northern Region General Seat which I have held for over 12 years.

I also have recent NEC experience in the Northern Region Female Seat.

I am active in attending regularly the Regional Higher Education Service Group Executive and have represented Higher Education at Regional Committee and Council.

Many of our National and Higher Education negotiations involve cross sector and union liaison which I have many years of experience in. I am committed to the continued good working relationship between sectors and unions involved in all processes.

Although I am a member of the Labour Party the only agenda I will work to is that supported by UNISON Higher Education members. I will not be steered by

any political bias and will only work in the best interests of UNISON members. The role of the NEC is to provide leadership but in doing so, I firmly believe, should always listen to the views of members.

This is a lay member led union however I believe in working with employed staff for the good of members. If elected I would be committed to working with the General Secretary and National Officers but have never been afraid to challenge anyone when it comes to the best interests of Higher Education members.

I have been an activist for 30 years in UNISON Higher Education, and a trade union member all of my working life. I recognise the need for change as nothing ever remains static. New ways of working should always be considered but I believe this can be achieved by working with everyone in UNISON.

Higher Education in UNISON and the NEC need to fight against the Tory Government to maintain unions' rights and to protect our member's pay and conditions and avoid any political bias which distract us from doing this. This Government's latest appalling efforts to curtail trade unions must be stopped by all unions fighting this in solidarity.

As a branch secretary for UNISON at Teesside University for 23 years I have grass roots experience and a comprehensive understanding of the challenges, locally and nationally, facing all Higher Education branches.

I have worked with the branch to achieve for our members:

- Improved holidays
- Reduced redundancy situations
- Pro rata bank holidays for part time staff who previously did not benefit from these due to their working pattern.
- Payment of the Real Living Wage for staff and supplements to maintain differentials in grades
- Retention of the majority of services in house
- Retention of terms and conditions, for example shift allowances, lieu time and premium pay for overtime and bank holiday working
- Reduced numbers of temporary and zero-hour contracts
- Greater focus on such issues as domestic violence and other equality issues such as the menopause, maternity leave, LGBT+ and Trans Ally training.

In seeking your nomination I do so with the knowledge that we are moving towards and are involved in many challenges such as:

Pay

I am committed to campaigning and acting on behalf of members to improve our pay and conditions. We deserve pay that provides keep up and catch up and need to lead and work with members to fight for this right. We must explore innovative ways to ensure the 50% ballot return threshold is achieved.

Privatisation

We face continued challenges regarding issues governing our terms and conditions of service including the threat of our services being contracted out. I would welcome the opportunity to take forward the voice of Higher Education members against such proposals.

Funding

It is essential that UNISON campaigns for improved funding for all public services including free education for all in Higher Education.

Pensions

I have played an active role in getting our member's voices heard regarding delayed pay, which is what pensions are. There are still many hurdles ahead of us regarding this important issue and I am committed to ensuring that this sector and all members in UNISON receives the representation, guidance, and support required.

Devolved Nations

It is essential that the members in the devolved nations of Higher Education are represented at all levels within UNISON. Higher Education is one sector with many voices that should be heard and represented and this should be reflected across UNISON.

Equalities

We need strong campaigns and actions within the NEC and HE so that all of our members are represented and to work with the Self Organised Groups to enable this. I am passionate about ensuring that equalities are a priority agenda within all of our structures.

Green Agenda

Climate crisis needs to be addressed and acted upon at all levels within Higher Education and across UNISON and especially by the leadership of the NEC. The future of our members depends upon this.

As an activist I believe strongly in representing the views of members whilst providing leadership. If elected I will do so without any bias or from any political platform.

I hope your branch will nominate me together with June Maguire standing for the NEC Higher Education Female seat.

Thank you.

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