



Women Members' Annual Conference

Friday 29 November 2024

**Nominations for the
Women Members' Standing Committee**

Extract from Standing Orders relating to nominations

Nominations submitted by branches/local associations must have been approved either by a quorate branch meeting, or by a properly constituted meeting of members from the relevant constituent group, or by a quorate branch committee meeting. The secretary of the branch/local association will confirm that nominations submitted have received such approval.

1.7 Elections The election of standing committee members will be determined by secret ballot of all voting delegates present during the relevant annual equality conferences. Voting will be in a single ballot conducted by single transferable vote. Should there be a casual vacancy or an unfilled vacancy at the time of the annual conference it will be filled by the candidate with the next highest number of votes after members have been elected to the full-term vacancies.

1.8 Co-options. The standing committees will have the power to co-opt members where an insufficient number of nominations have been made to the committee at any annual conference, or in the case of a casual vacancy arising between annual conferences. Members co-opted must fulfil the criteria for eligibility outlined in paragraph 1.4 above. Co-options will only occur in these circumstances and will cease at the annual conference following co-option when the vacancy can be filled through the process of election. When co-opting, standing committees (other than the WMC) shall take gender balance into account.

Vacancies to which nominations are sought

- **Five vacancies for a term of two years**

and the following 5 nominations have been submitted:

Nominee	College / University
Gillian Jack	The Open University
Vicky Blake	University of Leeds
Jennifer Dods	Leeds Beckett University
Laura Chuhan Campbell	Durham University
Poppy Eloise Gerrard-Abbott	The University of Edinburgh

Name Gillian Jack
Branch The Open University
Word Count 141

I was co-opted to the WMSC in January 2022 and then elected that November and would like to continue to be part of this committee. I have been the branch equality rep at the Open University since 2023, now a shared role. I and my co-officer are working on a variety of issues affecting female staff and those with disabilities and diverse gender identities in particular. I am also a member of UCU Commons and have taken representative roles within the OU itself to try to improve staff conditions.

I'm a cis woman but witnessing some of the hostility directed towards the trans and wider LGBTQIA+ communities, I am ever more committed to using my role on the WMSC to support the intersectional work already being done there. I want UCU to be at the forefront of defending and improving equalities

Name Vicky Blake
Branch University of Leeds
Word Count 153

Since 2011 I've served members at branch, regional, and UK level, including as UCU President, negotiator, chairing committees and as a delegate to TUC and Women's TUC. I'm a committed intersectional, pro-choice reproductive rights campaigner, serving on the Abortion Rights executive, working with unions and allied organisations to advocate for accessible, safe, and legal abortion services.

I'll push for WMSC to invite more member engagement, creating accessible and inclusive spaces for members across **all** post-16 education to come together to inform and shape our policy, campaigns, and bargaining agenda.

UCU service since 2011 includes:

- NEC (2013–)
- Higher Education USS and JNCHES negotiator (2019-20; 2024–)
- UK President 2020-2 (VP 2019/20; Past President 2022/3)
- Women's TUC delegate, WMSC (2011-2013; 2016-17; 2022–)
- Yorkshire and Humber Regional Higher Education Chair (2024–), previously Vice Chair (2023-4), and current Regional Committee Vice Chair
- Branch Officer at University of Leeds including Secretary (2023–), President (2017-19)

Name	Jennifer Dods
Branch	Leeds Beckett University
Word Count	150

I am an equalities officer at Leeds Beckett University, member of UCU Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Committee and UCU representative on the Yorkshire & Humberside Regional TUC Executive. As an experienced trade unionist, I have been involved in the development of university policies on flexible working, sexual harassment, childcare, menopause and domestic violence. I am committed to working within the union & Women Members Standing Committee to progress and develop the rights and opportunities of women members in the workplace. Particular concerns are those of part-time & early career lecturers – predominantly female – forming an increasing percentage of the educational workforce that lack secure permanent employment and experience wide-ranging discriminatory practices. Women members across our varied educational sectors face on-going issues in their workplace, and as a union, it is crucial we continue our work on gender pay & progression, increasing workloads, tackling sexism & sexual harassment in the workplace.

Name Laura Chuhan Campbell
Branch Duram University
Word Count 142

As a UCU campaigner and caseworker of several years, I have worked hard to challenge the difficulties women face in higher education, both on a personal and structural level. In my casework, I have supported women members who have faced structural barriers in their careers due to intersecting factors such as parental status, migrant status, race, and occupying roles in higher education that are coded as “feminine” and therefore undervalued. As a campaigner, I have organised successful local action against casualisation, which disproportionately affects female members and deprives them of opportunities in academia. If elected to the Women’s Committee, my work will be informed by these experiences. I am committed to trans-inclusion and promoting the rights of people of any gender identity to thrive in this sector. I have served one term on NEC and a previous term on the Women’s Committee.

Name Poppy Eloise Gerrard-Abbott
Branch The University of Edinburgh
Word Count 150

I specialise in gender-based violence (GBV) in the education context, working in policy and the third sector on violence against women and girls (VAWG) for over a decade. I bring insights from the complex needs of victims/survivors and the challenges of the frontline.

Alongside my PhD on GBV in education, I co-authored the Scottish Government-commissioned GBV Charter for FE and HE at the charity EmilyTest.

I’m currently employed at the University of Edinburgh School of Informatics, focused on online abuse. I’ve been UCU Edinburgh women’s officer for 1.5 years. I’m still a beginner in union process, keen to be more formally integrated.

My core feminist interest is collective knowledge - working with all sisters in constant collaboration, where I’m always both mentee and mentor – as well as designing everything I do on the most marginalised: women in poverty, with health problems, mothers/caregivers, and those in dangerous home situations and workplaces.