

## University and College Union

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**To** FE Branch Secretaries

**Topic** **FE negotiators for England: call for nominations**

**Action** **Raise with FE sector conference delegates; nominations to be submitted by 17:00, Tuesday 12 May 2026**

**Summary** FE negotiators for England will be elected by the annual sector conference. Nominations are now called for.

**Contact** Paul Bridge, head of further education ([pbridge@ucu.org.uk](mailto:pbridge@ucu.org.uk)); David Bussell ([dbussell@ucu.org.uk](mailto:dbussell@ucu.org.uk)) or [demservices@ucu.org.uk](mailto:demservices@ucu.org.uk) for nomination queries

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Dear Colleague

### **Call for nominations: FE negotiators for England**

Under rule 16.4, FE national sector conference elects national negotiators for England according to a formula approved by the sector conference. The formula is attached as Appendix 1. These elections will take place amongst FE delegates to the Congress and sector conferences taking place 27 – 29 May 2026.

Under the formula there are eight negotiators in total. Three of the negotiators are ex officio, the Vice-President for FE, and the two vice-chairs of the FE Committee. The other five are elected from the delegates to conference each year, and serve for one year.

This is a formal request for nominations for members of the FE negotiating team for England who are elected from sector conference.

All delegates to Further Education Sector Conference who are in current employment are eligible to be nominated – including members of the Further Education Committee.

**At the time of submission of nomination candidates must be in qualifying employment under rule 3.1.1 or have been in qualifying employment within the preceding 6 months, unless a pattern of casualised work in the post-16 education sector can be proven within the preceding 24 months. Candidates must provide, as part of their nomination, evidence of their qualifying employment, normally in the form of a copy of a payslip for work carried out within the preceding 6 months, or, in the case of a member who is self-employed, evidence of payment for work carried out within the preceding 6 months, or of a pattern of casualised work in the post-16 education sector within the preceding 24 months, to be received by the deadline for nomination. Any dispute in regards to a candidate's eligibility will be referred for decision to the chair of FEC who shall be advised by the National Head of Democratic Services.**

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS MADE: 1 April 2026**

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE: 17:00, Tuesday 12 May 2026**

The process is by self-nomination. If your delegate wishes to stand as one of the five elected negotiators they should complete the [online nomination form here](#) by **17:00 on Tuesday 12 May 2026**. A hard copy or Word document version can be made available on request by emailing [demservices@ucu.org.uk](mailto:demservices@ucu.org.uk). Members can also submit proof of employment by email if preferred.

If necessary, a ballot will be held during the Congress and sector conference meetings on 27 – 29 May 2026. The electorate will be the voting delegates who registered for and attended the FE sector conference meeting.

Those members elected will serve until the completion of the next elections at the annual Congress meeting to be held in 2027.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jo Grady

General Secretary

**FORMULA FOR THE ELECTION OF NEGOTIATORS**

- A. The total number of representatives shall be eight.
- B. All non-ex officio elected negotiators must be in current employment in the FE sector when elected.
- C. Three negotiators shall be ex officio; namely:
  - 1. Chair of FEC
  - 2. Vice-chairs (2) of FEC
- D. Five negotiators shall be elected by a meeting of FESC
- E. Elections to these five positions shall be subject to the following proviso at the time of election: that of the eight negotiators at least three shall be women.
- F. Should circumstances arise in which a reserve is required to fill a temporarily vacant place, the Chair and Vice-Chairs of FEC collectively are authorized to determine a suitable replacement for that purpose only.
- G. The first set of elections will be held in conjunction with the conference which approves these rules. Subject to (B), all delegates to the relevant FE Sector conference shall be eligible for nomination, and all members of the current FEC. Nominations will be by self-nomination from those who are official voting delegates to the relevant sector conference.
- H. After the first election, subsequent elections of negotiators will held at the sector conference during congress. Subject to (B), all delegates to congress within the FE Sector conference shall be eligible for nomination, and all members of the FEC which takes office immediately after congress.