



## **UCU Scotland Congress 2013**

**22 March 2013**

### **Scottish Constitutional Change and Higher Education Debate Speakers**

#### Stacey Devine, NUS Scotland Women's Officer

Stacey Devine is NUS Scotland Women's Officer. Prior to becoming a full-time officer at NUS Scotland she held the post of Vice President and President at Reid Kerr College Students' Association. Stacey, who studied Beauty Therapy at Reid Kerr, is also qualified sports coach and fitness instructor.

#### Michael MacNeil, UCU National Head of Higher Education

Michael MacNeil is the National Head of Higher Education with the University and College Union (UCU). He is the senior manager responsible for managing the union's HE department and HE regional operational staff. Michael has long-involvement in industrial relations, working for a number of trade unions and across different sectors. He has also worked as the Policy Director at the Legal Action Group, an organisation working to promote equal access to the justice system. He continues his interest in this field as the independent Chair of the Advice Services Alliance, a network involving, among others, Citizens' Advice, Shelter, and Law Centres.

He is also a Board Member of the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU).

#### Helen Martin, STUC Assistant Secretary

Helen Martin is an Assistant Secretary at the STUC, and her responsibilities include social justice and migration issues, further and higher education, equality and international engagement. Helen is also Secretary to the STUC Black Workers' Committee and the STUC LGBT Workers' Committee. Prior to joining the STUC in 2010, Helen worked as a policy officer in the Equality and Human Rights Commission's research and foresight department. Helen was also previously chair of the STUC's youth committee

Alastair Sim, Director, Universities Scotland

Sim, Alastair Elliot, BA (Hons), MA, MPhil, FRSA. Director, Universities Scotland, since July 2009; b. 29-08-67, Edinburgh; m., Fiona Parker; 2 s. Educ. Oxford University, University of Delaware, Glasgow University.

Civil Servant, Scottish Office/Scottish Government, 1989-2009; Private Secretary to Minister for Agriculture and the Environment, 1992-93; Developed policy and legislation on constitutional reform and protection of the natural heritage, 1993-2000 (seconded to European Commission of DG – Environment, 1994-95); Senior Civil Service since 2000: Head of Division, Environment and Rural Affairs, 2000-04; Director of Planning, University of Glasgow (secondment), 2004-06; Director of Policy and Strategy, Scottish Court Service, 2006-09.

Author: Rosslyn Blood (2004); The Unbelievers (2009)

Recreations: family, writing, cycling, the outdoors

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Elisabet Weedon, University of Edinburgh

Elisabet Weedon is Deputy Director and a Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Research in Education Inclusion and Diversity at the Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh. Her main research areas are lifelong learning and additional support for learning with a focus on issues around equality and social justice. Prior to working at the University of Edinburgh she worked for the Open University in Scotland and at Perth College, this included degree development for the UHI.