

## **Professional Services Staff Member Election 2020**

### **Caroline Delahoyde**

I joined the School of Engineering Technical Team in 2016. In my current role, as a Technical Support Officer I manage a team who support the chemistry orientated laboratories.

I am most engaged and motivated in my job when I can make a difference, for example, by participating in decision making, policy shaping and protocol improvement. I am an individual who enjoys the opportunity to be an active member of committees and local forums; I currently sit on the Equality & Diversity and the Athena Swann committees in the School of Engineering and I feel my contributions on these committees are valued as a result of the inclusive nature that exists within the school, despite the fact that I am a small cog in the large machine that is the School of Engineering. As a member of the Technical Support Committee I have championed the Technician Commitment and I took the initiative to create a TechNet networking group for The Kings Buildings Campus in order to engage colleagues in the other schools across the campus. Through this initiative I have seen first-hand the significant contribution Professional Services Staff make in achieving excellence in teaching and research.

I think it's important to have an inclusive approach to governance where all voices are heard over a cross section of the university. I believe that it is vital that the collective responsibility is shared by stake holders at all levels of the university hierarchy to ensure a collegiate approach to decision making for the organisation. Often it is the individuals working at the coal face who can generate viable and pertinent initiatives to feed into organisational level strategic planning.

I would relish the opportunity to serve as a member of the University Court representing professional services. It would enable me to engage with and contribute to the governance protocols of the wider organisation. To have the opportunity to highlight concerns affecting Professional Services and have influence in the strategic planning for the University would mean that I can give something back to an organisation that I am very proud to be part of.