

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

### **Tracy Noden**

This University brought me to Scotland: my first experience here was as a visiting student. I then worked for various higher education institutions before I started working here in professional services seven years ago. I'm proud to work here, even with the many problems that exist and need to be fixed. I'm delighted that the University is recognising the importance of professional services staff by giving us a seat on University Court (whether I get to fill it or not), and I hope it will provide a better chance of fixing the problems that we face.

I would greatly appreciate the ability to contribute to this University's governance and, through it, the upholding and enhancing of its reputation and the quality of experiences it offers students, staff and all other stakeholders. I want to help ensure that professional services staff are considered in University Court discussions and deliberations; I know how important our work is to the University and want to make sure that this seat isn't just a box-ticking exercise. I'd diligently attend meetings and events; I would not waste this opportunity.

I've worked as a course administrator in two of the Colleges (MVM and CAHSS), have dealt with people across the whole University and understand how widely the experiences of professional staff can differ. We are a huge mix of roles, grades and departments but also of backgrounds, abilities, disabilities, interests, concerns and aspirations. Finding one person who reflects every one of our combined facets surely isn't possible, but I'd do my best to represent that we are a diverse source of personal and professional strengths that should be highly valued indeed. I would of course exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the University and of professional services as a whole rather than as a representative of any particular constituency or other interest group.

I wholeheartedly believe in equality and the importance of diversity and always endeavour to treat others with dignity and respect. I have a printed copy of the University's Dignity and Respect policy at my desk, and I'm always ready to use it on anyone who infringes it. I'm a Sustainability Champion and an LGBTQ+ Advocate for the Law School. For both of these roles, I attend as many training sessions and events as possible to widen my exposure to others' experiences and better enable myself to live and work as responsibly as I can. I would of course conduct myself in accordance with accepted high standards of behaviour in public life; I already adhere to everything applicable in the Court's Code of Conduct.

If I'm elected, I'll do my best to make this seat worthwhile to the University and to all of us in professional services. Thank you for reading this, and I'd greatly appreciate your vote.