

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

### **Ross Simpson**

As a University I am personally excited by the current transformation and the self-improvement, focusing on benefiting individuals, our University community and wider society. I am an alumni of the university (MSc Management 2011), and have been employed here for over 10 years now. I am proud of my association with The University of Edinburgh. I believe I could bring a great wealth of experience to University Court.

I have past Board experience through various commitments with British University Colleges Sport (BUCS). I believe my professional experience combined with my passion about this institution and the new 2030 strategy, would make me an excellent professional services court member. I appreciate the role of court is to provide high-level strategic oversight and ensure that adequate control and monitoring arrangements are in place, and for me the staff at The University of Edinburgh are key to this success.

If successful I would fully exercise responsibilities in the interests of the University as a whole rather than as a representative of any constituency or other interest groups. I have had the pleasure this year of being part of a leadership course with representatives from across the University and it has been so refreshing to hear the great things that are going on across the institution, and more importantly how many great people there are, ensuring we are going in the right direction.

As part of the Sense of Belonging Task Group, it really has been enlightening to work with some incredible people, but also to see all the fantastic activity that is happening. The Student Experience Action Plan, to develop a strong sense of belonging in our student and staff communities is crucial in achieving the 2030 strategy. Achieving the 2030 strategy rests beyond anyone school or service, we all have our part to play.

I am very eager to further develop my understanding of the University, and its teaching and research mission, and of its internal structure and culture. Professional Services staff are fundamental to this institution, and it is pleasing to see this reflected in the court make up.

It has certainly been a period of change and some may say unrest, with a change in leadership, staff strikes, a poor staff survey, and the launch of a renewed strategy. I appreciate that all Professional Services Staff have a very different view about all of the aforementioned, and for me the diversity of the workforce has to be a strength. I would love to play a part on representing this group on Court, where possible providing a voice.

If successful I note that as a member of court, I would be familiar with the University's approved Code of Conduct and understand my obligations.

Thank you to those who agreed to support me, and many thanks to those who have taken the time to read this. We Are Edinburgh!