

## **Professional Services Staff Member Election 2024**

### **Anne-Marie Coriat**

This is a challenging, but exciting time for universities and higher education.

As the complexity of the environment we work and study in continues to increase, institutions need to work creatively, bring teams together and set transformative ambitions that build on strengths.

At the University of Edinburgh I believe this means building a strong interdisciplinary community where professional services, teaching and research staff all feel valued. It's an easy vision to describe and hard, but not impossible, to deliver.

Through its stewardship of the University, Court has a vital role to play in creating an environment where all our staff and students can contribute their strengths to deliver the university's ambitions. I'd like to use what I've learnt in my many years navigating funding, research, and higher education challenges to represent our professional services community on Court.

I joined the University of Edinburgh in January 2022 as Registrar for the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine (CMVM).

I began my career as a technician in university and hospital laboratories before doing a PhD on development in the American alligator. I am extremely proud of this background. Working as a technician and organising international field work taught me the importance of understanding what each individual brings to their role regardless of grade or experience, the importance of inclusivity and of the strength of a team that works well together.

I have continued supporting the development of university and national policy for technical careers (I am on the UK Technicians Commitment Steering Group and the UK Talent Commission).

Before Edinburgh, I worked for UK research funders across disciplines including as Director of Skills and Infrastructure for the Medical Research Council, Chair of the Research Councils UK Research Group (now UKRI) and Head of the Wellcome Trust Research Environment Team. I've seen huge change in that time and how expectations of what Universities can deliver has changed too. I'm proud to have been part of the national shift in policy on research culture.

I have also been a member of Council for the Royal Veterinary College, a Trustee of the UK Council for Graduate Education and co-Chair of the Research-on-Research Institute. I'd like to help us navigate our future by using this experience as a member of Court.

At work I like to understand the root cause of problems, combined with pragmatism, to best find solutions that lead to change. I like to work collaboratively; including diverse perspectives may take longer but in my experience the learning others share is often what leads to the best way forward, sustainable change and transformation.

How I work is as important as what I work on; honesty, accountability, courtesy and fairness are my guiding principles. My current role demands good stewardship to create positive environments for our teams and our partners. I'd take the same approach if I were elected to represent our community on University Court.

Thank you for reading my statement. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to stand to represent you.