

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

### **David Brook**

I have been employed by the University for over 23 years in a variety of roles. My current role as Head of Support Services within the Estates Department sees me responsible for the estate support services required to help the University function, many of which happen often unnoticed but are critically important – cleaning, servitorial, security, mail, transport, waste and furniture. This was never more so than during the COVID pandemic when we all continued to attend work on campus throughout lockdowns to ensure our buildings were maintained and continued to function for research purposes initially and teaching latterly. I believe I understand well the challenges faced by our lower graded staff and I also believe I would be a good advocate for them. This represents the first reason why I wish to be the Professional Services Staff Member on Court.

The University has played a huge part in my life over the last near quarter of a century. I met my wife, Jacqui Brook, here nearly 20 years ago, we were married in the Playfair Library and had our two beautiful children through IVF which was possible in part due to medical research carried out at our university. The importance of the university in my family's life represents the second reason I wish to play a wider part through becoming a member of court.

Whilst I have experience of operations within Estates across all colleges and support groups, Jacqui also has 20 years' experience working as Director of Professional Services within CAHSS, for the last 12 years in LLC. This gives me the benefit of seeing a view of the university from within a school and we often debate internal and external issues impacting the University. This was particularly so during the COVID pandemic and during the continued challenges presented by the implementation of People and Money. We probably should get out more.....but I believe this gives me a wider view of the impact of issues on professional services staff and my offer of a BOGOF deal represents my third reason.

I was educated at the local primary and high school in Stranraer and was the first member of my family on either side ever to go to university which I believe gives me a real understanding of the importance of our work in widening participation and our goal to achieve a more equitable university. My fourth reason.

And finally, I believe in the importance of the ability of staff and students to exercise free speech on any issue on campus, as long as views are expressed with kindness, decency and respect for others. I believe there is a silent majority view which does not always have a voice and I would like to speak up for that staff group. My fifth and final reason.

I would relish the opportunity, and see it as a privilege, to represent my colleagues, peers and many friends at the highest level in the University and would be very grateful for your support.