

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

### **Helen Wood**

I have worked within the Estates Department for over six years. I was the Estates Development Manager for the Easter Bush and Western General campuses, before being appointed as Head of University Space, a position I have held for the last 3 years.

As an individual I am enthusiastic, positive and deeply committed to ensuring our physical estate fosters and supports our people, with a focus on community, a sense of belonging and well being for all of our stakeholders. I equally believe that evidence, data and research should be the basis of impactful decision making, which in turn informs a sustainable strategic vision. Above all, both from the opportunities offered by the best possible physical estate and from digital capabilities, we must provide from our budget the best possible experience for our students. Satisfied students are the best possible ambassadors for future applicants.

The University is completely ingrained in the fabric of our city, with an international reputation and appeal, I believe we should create a campus that is sustainable, effective, future facing, open and welcoming to our neighbours, encouraging learning, providing the best student experience and staff and student opportunities. With my experience as a qualified architect, designing large hospitals both domestically and internationally, I am well versed in the imperative for community engagement in large institutional developments and the benefits that flow to the institution from that, I believe this is a parallel to the University's position in Edinburgh.

I believe my values and behaviours, which focus on nurturing collaboration and co-creation, will be of benefit to the University Court. Through-out my career in both the private sector and in the higher education sector I have cultivated a deep appreciation for diverse perspectives and inclusive decision-making processes. In a University context, those initiatives where academic and professional services staff have worked together and collaborated have had the most value. Effective strategic planning requires a foundation of trust, knowledge and a variety of expertise. I have developed my ability to see the 'big picture' and analyse complex situations, identify opportunities and develop innovative solutions. I'm not afraid of making mistakes or asking the 'silly' question and focus on personal learning. I thrive on dynamic situations and have good experience working with multidisciplinary teams, which has equipped me with strong communication and interpersonal skills.

I am inspired by the opportunity to learn from colleagues, and collaborate with a diverse group who share a passion and focus for excellence and a commitment to make a positive impact. I am committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity, diligence and innovation with the possibility of further contributing to the Institutions success and make meaningful impact.