

Professional Services Staff Member Election 2024

Maria Val Fernandez

I am standing for election to serve as a Professional Services Staff Member on the University Court.

I have extensive experience in representative duties in Ethics committees and taking on responsibilities in collaborative work with regulatory body of the profession in my country of origin, Spain.

As a Professional Services Staff Member, I hope to be able to act independently and inclusively towards ensuring that the University Court's oversight makes sure to keep the University's mission, values and strategic objectives close to its heart at all times. Like all staff, I know that changes in geopolitical and financial context might play a role in how the University is required to think about priorities and direction, and the Court's role may be decisive in its duty of ensuring that it delivers adequate framework for the work of the executive management of the University.

I am keen to ensure that the University successfully deals with the challenges and conflicting priorities it may face while counter-balancing and enriching managerial efforts with the need to champion diversity, transparency, trust and responsibility to one another in the University community when implementing our strategy 2030 of excellence.

As a Solicitor by background, my particular expertise and experience might be helpful to join key committees and groups where I can actively work to ensure that the University is a great place to work for all. I have an international mindset and the People area of our strategy particularly resonates with me; I am keen to join this conversation and to be a voice for diverse perspectives and a range of concerns, while committing to ensure that our common values are effectively embedded.

I would be a privilege for me to count on my colleagues' support to volunteer my time and experience by becoming a Professional Services Staff Member on the University Court, and by contributing my expertise in key committees and groups as helpful.

Thank you.