

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

### **Peter J. Green-Sargent**

Throughout my working life I have represented people at varying levels of forum through debate and negotiation. I have been honoured and privileged to do so and gained substantial success in safeguarding their interests. My elected roles of shop steward, convenor, chairman and director have given me invaluable experience at times of change and uncertainty. The turbulence of the 1980's politically and economically affected many institutions and households the length and breadth of the United Kingdom, At that time it was important then to seek balance and fairness during the implementation of deregulation and privatisation. In many respects since covid these times have once again reappeared and the University must be prepared for the challenges that lie ahead for both students and employees. Additionally, the impact of covid on the University must be re-evaluated. I believe that I have the necessary expertise and experience to facilitate the University and all stakeholders in seeking certainty and direction for the future.

I have written and submitted various papers on the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, as Chairman of the Joint Consultative Panel of Lothian Regional Council representing 25,000 members of the Fund, including a live debate held in St, Giles Cathedral on the "Ownership of a Pension Surplus" I have campaigned at national level seeking pension benefit improvements, Throughout 1984 I was the Scottish Trade Union spokesperson for Road Passenger Transport and led a deputation and lobby at Westminster against the 1985 Transport Act. In 1992 I was elected as worker director for Lothian Buses, representing over 2,000 employees, serving four terms of office resigning on the issue of Tram Introduction for Edinburgh and the escalating costs of an unmonitored project.

In recent times I have experienced the effect of change implemented by the Scottish Government to our educational system involving qualifications and funding. At college level amalgamation took place locally between Telford College, Stevenson College and Jewel and Esk Valley College rebranded as Edinburgh College. This was deemed necessary to avoid huge funding deficits and of course compulsory redundancies. However, many courses previously offered disappeared affecting the curriculum on offer. Scottish Universities will not in my opinion be insulated from a similar set of circumstances with many now experiencing financial stress tests. The way ahead at Edinburgh University is to be prepared for all eventualities seeking the highest standards of excellence and reputational advancement protecting all stakeholders for future years. It would be an honour to represent you in the days ahead.