

Professional Services Staff Member Election 2024

Tracey Edward

As a member of the Professional Services community, I am passionate about people - everyone deserves to be heard and valued, people need to be recognised and respected. Changes should be made to enhance what we do in a way which is sustainable and fiscally responsible. I believe I possess the skills, knowledge, and perspective necessary to provide a balanced assessment of the choices essential for strategic oversight and stewardship. This has motivated me to pursue the Professional Services Staff Member for The University Court.

I am a seasoned finance professional, ACMA qualified, with an MBA from The University of Manchester and 20+ years' experience in industry. I've worked in a variety of roles over my career from Treasurer for Children's Charity to executing projects where my contributions delivered value creation and operational efficiencies. I've advised CEO's, governance boards and Senior Leaders on investment proposals, prioritisation of strategic programmes and cost transformation options. With my background in industry, balanced with my knowledge in Higher Education, I'm able to provide a fresh perspective to the challenges we face.

Since joining The University of Edinburgh in 2022, I have been a member of the Finance Leadership Team representing the Colleges' interests. I am also a member of the Student Scholarships Group (subsidiary of the Student Recruitment and Fee Strategy Group), to consider how scholarships and bursaries can be deployed to widen participation and diversification of the student population – key strategic priorities for The University of Edinburgh. In June 2023, I became a Board Member for Accommodation, Catering and Events subsidiary.

My current role is Head of Finance for College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The remit of the role is broad from engaging with Senior Leaders in Schools/Finance to following up with Admissions Team on student recruitment to facilitating sessions at the Extended Leadership Group. I keep abreast of issues and challenges facing the sector and use this insight to identify solutions to minimise the impact. The pace of change, the geopolitical environment and operating model of Higher Education institutions highlight some of the risks to navigate if we are to be successful in executing change to deliver The University of Edinburgh's 2030 Strategy.

I am extremely proud to be part of the University of Edinburgh. I have the energy and enthusiasm to navigate the journey ahead as we enter this period of change. If successfully elected, I will approach decision-making with balance as a logical thinker and use evidence from data to consider a range of possible outcomes. A Professional Services Member of Court must be able to provide unbiased and rational evidence and make decisions that support the interests from staff, students, funding bodies, alumni, and the wider community.