University of York
Council Election for Professional Support Staff Representative - 2020

Candidate list in alphabetical order

BASHIR, Mohammed Javed (Research and Enterprise)

As a member of the research and enterprise team, I represent the University as an ambassador for the University and uphold the virtues and values it represents. In a front line external-facing role, my conduct has been exemplary in portraying the best the University has to offer.

Sitting on boards for scrutiny, setting strategic visions and direction is not new to me. Previously, I have represented organisations on the global stage in the public, private and third sector. I provided advisory service to the high office of a West African Government during the Ebola outbreak. I stood for public office for local and parliamentary elections and held the office of parliamentary spokesperson for a mainstream political party.

I embody the virtues of the Nolan principles; it, therefore, should come as no surprise that transparency and accountability are always a high priority when representing those that place their trust in me.

As a team player, I get on with others, including addressing concerns and making representations to convince people by making positive cases. I am not afraid to make critical and difficult decisions. I am well connected with external institutes and have strong networks in various industries, public sector agencies and will bring a new dynamic that will benefit the University and member of staff. If elected and entrusted to the role would be a great privilege, as I am qualified and have the experience to execute responsibilities. In a short time, I have been at the University, I have met many people and spent time in understanding their roles, and gaining a greater understanding of the Universities internal workings. I have led some discussions of meeting the Universities strategic vision on developing new partnerships.

I look forward to securing your vote to represent you on this important body.

BLAKE, Michelle (Library and Archives)

I am the Deputy Director of Library Services, responsible for the operational running of the Library. This has required me to have an understanding of the diverse needs across academic and professional services staff as well as our student bodies, bringing me into contact with staff at all levels of the organisation.

I am a highly collaborative person who is customer focused placing our staff, student and wider communities at the heart of everything we do. The relationships I have developed and my ability to see others perspectives has helped ensure creative and positive outcomes are achieved. For example, I recently oversaw the re-opening of the physical library, with student and staff wellbeing
central to our planning and working in partnership with staff and students unions, colleagues from across professional services and as well as actively seeking feedback from academic colleagues.

I have a direct and open communication approach and am not afraid to positively challenge others. I have been successful in this as a trustee of a multi-academy school trust comprising 6 local York schools with approx. 3000 students. I take an active role on the Trust including during the pandemic where it was extremely pressurised i.e. ensuring staff and student wellbeing coupled with pragmatism to reopen in June.

I have a strong track record of service delivery and am known as an individual who makes things happen, not just in the Library but more widely across the University. For example, I recently led the planning and implementation of shared outdoor spaces for students self-isolating on campus. If elected, I would take an active role on Council, acting as a critical friend to ensure it acts in the best interests of the whole community. My enthusiasm, energy, skills and experience would ensure my success as a member of Council.

BROOM, Susanna (Student and Academic Services)

I have been a member of the University community for 17 years, as an undergraduate, an alumna, and as an employee since 2010. I have also been a mature distance learner, balancing part-time masters-level study with full-time work.

This experience, from multiple perspectives, has given me a keen appreciation for, and understanding of, the governance, organisation, and operation of the University, and the vital role professional support staff have in these. I therefore recognise the importance of professional support staff being effectively represented on Council: the University’s governing body, with ultimate responsibility for the institution’s strategic development and direction, compliance with legal and regulatory frameworks, and financial sustainability.

My current role is Assistant Registrar (Research & Financial Support) based in Student Services. I am responsible for a range of administrative processes, leading both the Research Student Administration and Student Financial Support teams. I manage ten staff across a range of grades and sit on the Service’s Management Team.

Beyond York, as Secretary to the Academic Registrars’ Council’s Postgraduate Practitioner Group, and a contributor to events run by the UK Council for Graduate Education, I am actively engaged in national networks. I also have experience in charity governance having been a Trustee and Secretary for local charity The Snappy Trust.

I enjoy constructive and collaborative working relationships with senior academics, and working with colleagues across institutional boundaries; I am accustomed to weighing evidence and factoring in the wider context to inform the decisions I make and advice I give; and I am a long-standing, committed member of the University community. I would therefore be delighted to represent professional support staff on Council, and to contribute to the sustainability of the University and the realisation of its vision to be a university for the public good.
**DODGSON, Rebecca (Research and Enterprise)**

I am in a privileged position whereby I have a wide breadth of viewpoint from different aspects across and within the University and externally to the University.

I have considerable (over ten years) experience of working for the University and have worked with many different academic departments from all faculties and with many professional services departments. I work on multiple complex projects including cross-departmental projects such as the implementation of GDPR and a project assessing directorate risks.

I have the experience and ability to consider the impact of decisions on all stakeholders across the directorate. I regularly represent the University at events/meetings with external organisations/businesses, which has allowed me to develop a good understanding of the current economic and political landscape.

I have experience as a student of the University and experience of working outside of the University in both public and private sector management roles. This experience has given me an understanding of the higher education sector, the University of York, its culture and student experience, the city of York and Yorkshire region, but also an ability to look at the strategy, management, decisions and activities of the University with an external perspective.

I care hugely about the University successfully achieving its objectives, while operating in a fair and accountable way. I will work hard as a member of council to support the University to achieve this.

In my current and past roles, I have proven my ability to absorb complex information, scrutinise the information and ask appropriate questions as a result; to think strategically, considering long-term impacts of decisions; to listen to the opinions of others and express my own ideas clearly; to work in a team to come to a decision; and to maintain confidentiality. These skills will enable me to be an effective member of council.

**DURRANT, Andy (Technology, Estates, Facilities)**

I should like to nominate myself for a position on the Council.

I believe that I can offer a wide ranging view and understanding of the issues that face the University and provide a useful input in helping to shape the vision and strategy of the University of York going ahead.

In my current role I am required to work with Departments, Colleges and Faculties as well as the local community. I have built up good relationships with customers and stakeholders at all levels and through it gained respect and a reputation as someone who will get things done.

I have a passion for helping to deliver and enhance the student experience. I have a pragmatic approach to an issue or problem and I have a keen interest in seeing the University develop and move with the changing demands and needs within further education. I have a long history of working in the public sector with some experience in the private sector. I take nothing for granted. It is the customer and the quality of our academic teaching and research, that ensures the future of the University. I am keen to help create an environment and reputation that will encourage potential customers and investors.
I am coming up to 10 years at the University of York in a role that has given me huge satisfaction. I should like my role on the Council to be a contribution towards helping to shape the future by imparting my knowledge of the campus and by providing a balanced viewpoint to any issues.

**EXON, Jonny (Student Life and Well Being)**

I have been working for the University for exactly 10 years this November; 3 years working in research finance, and 7 years running Langwith College. During this time I’ve been lucky to work with lots of fantastic staff from across the University.

I really love my job and I value the work we do as an institution. I’m passionate about improving the staff and student experience. If you work directly with students, you might be aware of the College Mentoring (STYM) scheme which I set up.

Over spring and summer I helped to support our response to coronavirus by leading the University’s Arrivals and Quarantine contingency planning groups. Working with teams from across the University, this really impressed on me the immense amount of creativity, hard work and flexibility support staff have shown over the last year. It’s also made me see the importance of the need for us to work smartly together, whilst prioritising staff and student wellbeing.

Over the last 9 years I have also been a volunteer trustee and treasurer for several local and regional charities including the Pay & Employment Rights Service, Tang Hall Community Centre and York Family Mediation Service. I have a law degree, and I’ve had training in governance and strategic planning. I therefore understand the importance of good governance – and believe if elected I would be able to act with confidence and integrity.

I believe this would be a great way to give back to the University and our community, whilst developing my own skills and experience.

**FATIMA, Naurin (Centre for Health Economics)**

I am currently undertaking training in the Springboard initiative and whilst attending the sessions I gained the confidence to seek election as a BAME candidate.

I have always shown an interest in the council procedures. This can be best demonstrated during my formative years, I was elected as a member of the Burngreave Youth Council. Burngreave is one of the most deprived areas of Sheffield. During, my term I was able to be part of the discussion to bring about positive change in my community and I thrived in my role.

I believe I encompass the Nolan Principles which are clearly demonstrated in my key role in setting up the York Mosque Scouts Club.

I feel my skills, experience, and determination will enable me to conduct my duties to the highest standard. Only recently, I gained my ACCA qualification whilst working full time and self studying and now I will like to focus my attention to my role as an member of the University Council.
HELLOWELL, Ian (Physics)

Hello, my name is Ian Helliwell and I have worked at the University for nearly 30 years, rising from a junior technician to become Undergraduate Laboratory Manager in the Department of Physics, a post I've held for the last 13 years. This role requires collaborative working and planning to design, develop and deliver a wide range of practical and computing facilities to all undergraduate year students, within the regulatory and academic framework prescribed by the Department and the University.

Between 2017 and 2019, I also acted as Interim Department Technical Manager with responsibility for both teaching and research technical teams, buildings and safety provision.

Undertaking these roles requires interaction with all major University support facilities as well as other departments and science faculty structures, including representing the Department of Physics at Faculty level. These interactions have enabled me to gain significant experience and understanding of the wider University operations and governance.

In recognition of these roles, I was honoured to receive the 2019 Institute of Physics Technician award for Higher Education.

Outside of the University, my major interest revolves around the sport of archery. I am both the Chair of a local archery club and the club representative on the Wilberfoss PFA committee, both posts requiring in-depth knowledge of sporting and facilities governance at a local level as well as requiring interaction with regional and national sporting bodies. This understanding of governance is also important in my other sporting role as an archery judge for Yorkshire Archery Association, judging events to World Record status level.

Having been part of the Department of Physics and the University’s continual growth and development over the past 30 years, I would like to offer that experience and knowledge in representing the support staff perspective on Council.

HEWITT, Gary (Planning Office)

I am interested in standing as an elected member of professional support services staff on the University Council for a number of reasons. Firstly, I have a demonstrable interest in higher education and a real passion and willingness to engage in and promote the broader aims of the University. As a Planning Officer, an aspect of my role that I love is that I can impact decisions and make positive change to the University as a whole. I facilitate and coordinate the development of plans across the University and provide professional, strategically-focussed advice to assist in the delivery of key University projects. I am regularly mediating between the needs and priorities of the departments I support and those of the wider University. Being a member of the council would allow me to utilise my skills and commitment to the University in a much broader sense by being a part of the strategic governance of the University.

Through working in the HE sector for the last eight years in roles across widening participation, student recruitment and planning, I have developed a broad knowledge and understanding of all
aspects of the University from the start of a student’s journey through to its overall management. A key aspect and the very nature of my role in planning as a professional support services staff member is to treat all matters equitably and provide trusted and effective business partnering with a respect for confidentiality. I consider myself incredibly conscientious with a positive attitude and would relish the opportunity to be a member of the University Council.

MACINTOSH, Ana (Computer Science) (Assuring Autonomy International Programme)

As a member of the University’s Professional Support Staff, I take pride in my work and enjoy being surrounded by people with exceptional skills – whether they be organisational, administrative, financial, communications, advocacy, problem solving or leadership. My role is to manage the Assuring Autonomy International Programme, and I also support the new Institute for Safe Autonomy, which gives me an excellent insight into the strategic context for research, partnerships, estates development and interdisciplinary collaboration. Much of my work tests the University’s structures, and I collaborate with colleagues in different professional directorates to ensure that non-standard opportunities can be developed, sharing knowledge and experience were possible.
Before joining the University of York, I worked at the University of Sheffield, where I was a member of the Senate, with insight to the University’s decision-making processes; I previously represented the N8 Universities as a Business Development Manager, following a period as a Project Manager in an SME. As a member of the University Council, I would bring my experience of working for these diverse organisations, and my deep understanding of the agility that we need in order to seize new opportunities while maintaining our integrity.

My academic background spans engineering, medicine, and life sciences, and my experience means that I will be a strong advocate for interdisciplinary working, with a particular interest in: research, how we best support it, and how the University achieves its ambitions to be excellent, effective, inclusive and socially responsible.

WILKINSON, Debbie (Vice Chancellor’s Department)

I have worked at the University of York for two years as part of the Professional Support Services within the Vice Chancellors Department. I was Personal Assistant to Deborah Smith, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Tom Stoneham, Dean of the York Graduate Research School and currently support the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Partnerships and Engagements, Kiran Trehan. Within this time, I have gained a unique knowledge and understanding of the University’s work ethics and culture, recognising the strong values underpinning everything the University aims to achieve.

As a previous volunteer Service Inspector within the City of York Council, I gained an understanding of the importance of internal and external stakeholder relationships and represented their views and opinions regularly. I led several service reviews employing skills learnt during my studies as a law student and working life; namely the ability to use analytical skills, problem solving skills, leadership skills and creativity skills. The ability to discuss calmly and effectively were essential when evaluating problems and agreeing solutions acceptable to all stakeholders involved.

Honesty and integrity are values, which I have evidenced throughout my working career, evidenced by positive appraisals received from the Crown Prosecution Service and the City of York Council. As part of the Professional Support Staff, I am privy to sensitive and confidential information and fully understand the importance of not breaching trust from a personal and legal viewpoint.

I am in a unique position having studied within the educational system achieving BA (Hons) in Law in 2016 and currently working within the educational system allowing me to view issues from different perspectives.

I feel I would be a keen candidate to support the Professional Support teams as I am able to listen, evaluate and express when required, ensuring all viewpoints are put forward for consideration.