UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Senate Election for Faculty Academic Staff

There is one vacancy for a member of academic staff based in academic departments in faculties to be elected to the University Senate for three years from the date of election. The vacancy to be filled is as follows:

- Faculty of Sciences: 1 vacancy

The following self-nominations have been received from eligible staff:

**Faculty of Sciences**

BARTON, Charles (Physics)

Being a part of the learning community of a university is an incredibly empowering experience for both students and staff. As Chair of the Board of Studies in Physics, and previously as Senior Admissions Tutor, I have had the privilege of helping to shape, support and grow our learning community. If elected to serve at Senate for the Faculty of Science, I will carefully consider policies that affect our learning community. I will be mindful of all members of our community when supporting new policies. I will be guided by considering what is best for our university community as we fulfil our mission as a Russell Group university for public good.

BISSELL, John (Electronic Engineering)

My name is John Bissell, and I am a Lecturer in the Department of Electronic Engineering. I joined the University in 2020, having held posts at Durham (2012), Bath (2015), and Warwick (2018).

If elected to the Senate, I will use my recent experiences at other Higher Education institutions to reflect critically on practices at York, and seek to make the voices of more junior academics heard at Council. The University is about to embark on significant changes that will have major consequences for the work of frontline staff (e.g., ‘semesterisation’, and the common module credit system), and it is essential that these changes are conducted within a spirit of openness, in which ideas and concerns are communicated effectively across all levels, grades, and job roles.

With these points in mind, I have a particular interest in the status of Teaching and Scholarship (T&S) as a career pathway at York. It is apparent that there exists considerable confusion surrounding the T&S role, and a rather perverse set of institutional barriers that prevent T&S staff from pursuing activities which would otherwise benefit the University’s core mission. Indeed, the consequences of these barriers for the career progression of T&S staff are well known. In so far as this harms the University’s overall effectiveness (i.e., by failing to capitalise on the expertise of its workforce), this is a serious problem; however, given the relative over-representation of women in teaching roles compared to men, it is also potentially an Equality & Diversity issue.

My experience at other U.K. universities suggests that it doesn’t have to be this way. If elected to the Senate, I will argue for a review of the T&S role at York, so that academic talent can be harnessed effectively, and the potential of all staff at the University properly realised.