

Academic Staff Member Election 2022

Gale Macleod

I would bring both depth and breadth of expertise to Court. I am the proverbial 'all-rounder', carrying out all the main tasks expected of an academic member of staff since 2004. I am an active researcher in the areas of Higher Education, parental engagement and school disruption. I founded and co-ordinate the Higher Education Research Group. I run Master's level courses with between 750 and 950 students each year. I have supervised 17 PGR students to completion. I have held academic leadership posts including School PG Director and CAHSS PGT Dean, have served on university committees (e.g., Senate Learning and Teaching Committee) and am familiar with UoE governance structures. Although based in CAHSS I have a good understanding of other colleges from this university level work, from chairing TPRs, and interdisciplinary research connections. I am active in the wider HE sector having led working groups for the UK Council for Graduate Education for four years, and am a co-opted member of the UKCGE Executive Committee. I have published research on staff perceptions and responses to the challenges caused by rapid expansion into new markets (particularly international PGT) and have been invited to speak at a number of HE national conferences about staff and student experiences, most recently on resilience as a systems level issue. I have a detailed understanding of the wider political and legislative context in both Scotland and the UK.

I am standing for election to Court as I believe staff face a significant threat to their academic freedom. One of Court's responsibilities is to ensure that academic freedom is protected and I am committed to doing all that I can to support this in principle and practice. The pursuit of knowledge is a fundamental purpose of any university. For this to be achieved it is important that all ideas, good and bad, are exposed to thorough critique and challenge. This requires that everyone, regardless of their position, is free to express their ideas and have them debated in a calm and collegial environment. I recognise that academic freedom is a particular issue for early career colleagues who may feel they need to be careful about challenging orthodoxies or more senior colleagues. I am a founding member of the Edinburgh Academics for Academic Freedom group.

I am committed to the preservation of the university as scholarly community in which colleagues are enabled to flourish. I have taken on multiple informal and formal mentoring roles. Nominations (four this year) for CAHSS recognition awards in leadership stated 'Gale leads by example, modelling professionalism, hard work and integrity', 'she has continuously provided opportunities for newly started researchers and PhD students' and that I do this 'in a manner consistent with the predispositions and quality of academic leadership ideally expected from a senior faculty figure'. If elected as academic staff representative I would use this position to ensure that the staff experience was represented in all decision-making and that the impact of strategic decisions on staff was fully understood and considered.