

## Election of member of Professional Services staff to University Council: FAQs

### **What governs this round of elections?**

University Regulation 9, approved by Senate and Council, covers both the election of academic staff to Senate and of Professional Services staff to Council. This is the framework used to run this election, making the process open and transparent and setting the timetable and key milestones in the election process, as well as the rules for standing and voting. The Regulation can be found [here](#).

### **Who is eligible to stand for election?**

Although it has always been the case, it has been made more explicit that all staff of the University on professional service contracts of whatever grade are able to stand for election provided they are in post at the point of the election starting. Staff who are employed through Commercial Services (YCL) are not eligible to stand as they are not employees of the University but rather of a subsidiary company. We would obviously not expect individuals to stand for election where they were planning to leave the University in the near future.

### **How many Professional Support Staff sit on Council?**

We have two professional services staff who are elected as members of Council from a total of 22 members, as set out in the University Statutes. (On many university governing bodies, there is only one elected member of professional services staff.)

### **What is the term of office and time of appointment?**

It is a three-year term, which is the same as the four academic members nominated to Council by Senate. PS staff members can be re-elected after one year has elapsed since the end of their term of office, but unless there was a lapse of one year and no election held, or an interim appointment was made, re-election would not normally arise as an option.

### **How does the role differ from other membership categories on Council?**

All Council members have equal standing whether as lay independent members, representatives from YSU, Senate nominees or *ex officio* senior management members. All are trustees of the University as an exempt charity, have parity of status and must act in the best interests of the University, both individually and collectively. However, all individuals and categories bring different perspectives to Council, including valuable staff insights, locally and generally. However, whilst being elected to Council makes individuals 'representative' of a defined group of staff, the role is not to 'represent'.

### **Likely time commitment**

Council currently holds 4 formal meetings each academic year, with an additional strategic away day held jointly with the University Executive Board (normally towards the start of the academic year in October). Development or briefing events for members are also held in the afternoon of the day before the meeting; the formal meetings then take place the next morning and usually last ca. 3-4 hours. Elected PS staff members should ensure through discussion with their line managers that they are released for attendance at Council meetings and other engagements.

### **Encouraging diversity on Council**

Whilst this is an election and all eligible candidates are invited to stand, with the outcome determined by 'first past the post' voting, Council is particularly keen to strengthen the diversity of its membership, and encourages individuals to stand from under-represented groups (including women, BAME, disabled, LGBT+ and gender-diverse candidates) and from the full span of professional support grades.

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