

Academic Staff Member Election 2026

Dimitri Mignard

I have been a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer for two decades within the School of Engineering, also working with colleagues across different Schools and Colleges. I witnessed strategic changes on several occasions, and the challenges around communication, trust, sense of belonging and representation in decisions made. I understand that much of the friction that we are experiencing now in employment relations stems from these issues. Fortunately, our teaching and research staff in particular remains deeply dedicated to the core mission of the University, which is to serve society through the education of our students, the advancement of knowledge and its applications, and the building of communities of staff, students, alumni and stakeholders. And with that hopeful thought in mind, I believe that the Court can influence successful change by promoting more effective consultation, clearer presentation of information and communications, and a greater sense of agency for staff.

I would like to serve as Elected Academic Staff Member to the Court so that I can

- Present the views of an ordinary academic staff working at the coalface
- Support the University missions across R&I, Education and Civic Engagement
- Engage with other Court Members in fact-finding, consensus-building, and helping improve proposals from management.
- Seek data, including surveys of staff, and promote its clear and accessible presentation for the benefit of all staff and stakeholders
- Support only proposals that come with transparent evidence and clear route to impact for preserving, sustaining and enhancing the delivery of the University's core missions.
- Where appropriate with regard to Regulations for Academic Member of Staff on the Court, report back on the proceedings of Court meetings to colleagues in my own School, and other schools through contacts of mine where there are no existing channels there.

My credentials for this role are in the community-building domain where agreement and concerted action must support a sense of agency and delivering on events that serve members' development and interests. Typically, results will depend on the goodwill of others and maintaining good relations. My track record in this respect includes

- Consortium building as PI or Co-I on research projects involving partners in Africa
- In past roles as Office Bearer in various guises in my professional association, the Institution of Chemical Engineers (2013-2018)
- Running and evolving a complex and successful multidisciplinary MSc program that relied on the good will of many people in different Schools and even Colleges (2014-2018).
- Innovating in the role of Cohort Lead (for UG students) over the past three years, with tangible results for cohort engagement and their feedback on all measures of success for the role. Also hosting Alumni now working in industry to meet our students on many occasions.
- Securing nominations across several Schools and Colleges (not all included on my form as I missed asking on staff number early on)
- Embedding within the local (non-academic) community of long-term Edinburgh residents. For example, I have been driving improvements and recruitment on my local allotment.