

Academic Staff Member Election 2026

Martin Corley

I am the Head of Psychology in PPLS. I have a lifelong association with the University, having completed my undergraduate studies here in 1989 and returned to teach in 1995. My research explores the mechanics of human communication, a discipline I believe to be increasingly vital to the effective governance of a complex, global institution.

I am standing for election because I believe that my institutional memory can be of genuine service to the University Court. Having spent decades within our community, I am well placed to represent the granular reality of how Court's strategic decisions translate into practice within our Colleges and Schools. I am eager to learn more about the "bigger picture" and to help find ways of modernising the University without losing sight of the colleagues who will have to enact changes, or of our core identity as a public educational charity.

Staff Wellbeing and Sustainability. A university is only as strong as its staff. I consider it a fundamental obligation to represent the interests of my colleagues—junior and senior, with time-limited or open-ended contracts—who sustain our reputation. In these challenging times, I will work to ensure that staff are treated with fairness, and that promotion pathways are reopened as soon as possible. If there are further redundancies, I will argue that the impact on those remaining must be meticulously managed to prevent burnout and ensure a sustainable workload.

Research and Reputation. Our standing in rankings such as QS is driven by our prodigious research capacity. At Court, I aim to represent the full breadth of this activity. This includes not only high-profile, "headline" grants but the essential, incremental research that forms the backbone of what we do. I will also make the case for better funding and structural support for our PGR students, who are the future of our research community.

The Student Experience. As a lifelong educator, I am committed to ensuring the student experience remains central to Court's deliberations. We must look beyond the majority to those groups who do not always benefit from a traditional campus life, such as student carers and commuters. I will advocate for an inclusive approach that supports the diverse needs of our entire student body.

Operational Resilience. It's important to acknowledge that changes to internal processes and software rollouts (most notably People and Money, but I remember the Euclid rollout) have caused significant frustration and operational risk. I will advocate for greater transparency in requisitioning and a more rigorous approach to adopting systems that must, above all else, be fit for purpose.

Diversity. I am aware that my election would not, in itself, increase the demographic diversity of the Court. However, I am deeply committed to being an active ally and advocate for inclusion, ensuring that the Court remains a place where all voices within our University are heard and valued.