

Dr Martin Barker

Belonging to Court as an elected academic would be a privilege that I would value immensely. But, more importantly, it would be an opportunity to serve the University of Aberdeen. I have dedicated a substantial amount of my career to the university. During this time, I have gained a real sense of what the university has been doing and also could be doing in the future.

Belonging to Court would allow me to contribute my attributes to decision making and management. I am an articulate, clear thinker, with a strong sense of fairness and equity. On numerous committees, including chairing, I have a long experience of participating in organisational discussions within the university and in outside agencies.

My organisational experience within the university includes Senate (2016—2020, 2022—), Senior Personal Tutor and pastoral lead (2013 —), Student Disabilities Coordinator (2013—), Honorary Chaplain (2016—), Feedback and Assessment Task Group (2016—2020), STAR Assessor (2014—2017), Employee Engagement Working Group (2016—2017), Student Survey Working Group (2015—2019), QAA Student Transitions Institutional Team (2014—2018), biannual Learning and Teaching in Higher Education staff induction events (2012—). Outside the university my contributions include President of the Cruickshank Botanic Gardens (2022—), Chair of Governors, Bachlaw Projects independent school (2014—2019), Chair of Parent Teacher Association, St Peter's School. Invited speaker: The Mount School, Ackworth School and St Christopher's School.

My personal attributes that I would bring to Court include empathy, awareness, kindness, and generosity. I would speak truth to power. As a vocal and strong supporter of diversity and inclusion, I would always be speaking up on behalf of management decisions that protect and cherish the interests of our broader University of Aberdeen community. "There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

Mrs Toni Gibson

I am honoured to present myself as a candidate for election to Court. I am inspired to contribute to the institution's growth, excellence, and positive impact on the lives of students, staff, and the wider community.

As a staff member, I have witnessed the transformative power of education and research, in both RGU and University of Aberdeen. If elected, I will bring my experience, insights, and dedication to support the university's mission, while also representing the interests and aspirations of our esteemed staff members.

Despite being a relative new member of staff, I feel I have the tenacity and experience, through serving on the Women's Network both at Aberdeen and RGU together with my role of working with the management teams to be able to actively engage with staff, listen to their concerns and champion their interests within the Court's deliberations. Having worked in the professional services prior to joining the University of Aberdeen I feel that I have a "foot in both camps" so as to speak and therefore would be able to bridge any gap.

I recognize the challenges and opportunities faced by our staff members in today's rapidly changing educational landscape. I will advocate for policies and initiatives that support their growth, satisfaction, and well-being. I am involved in generating ChatGPT Resources to aide and support both staff and students in navigating this new era.

I will prioritize responsible resource and financial management for the long-term sustainability and success of our institution. Transparency and accountability will guide my decision-making process, ensuring the interests of all stakeholders are safeguarded.

I humbly ask for your support and trust in this election. Together, we can strengthen the bond between staff, students, and administration, fostering an environment where each member of our community can thrive.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I am excited about the opportunity to serve Aberdeen University and work alongside each of you to shape a brighter future for our institution.

Mr Scott Styles

THE POST: Court is the ultimate governing body of the University, it approves budgets, senior management report to Court and all University staff are legally employed by Court. Court matters.

THE CANDIDATE: I was the first person in my family to go to university. I have a MA in Philosophy and International Relations from Aberdeen University and a LLB law degree from the University of Edinburgh. I taught at the Universities of Edinburgh and Dundee before returning to Aberdeen. I am a Senior Lecturer in the School of Law and have been a member of staff here at Aberdeen since 1992. My academic interests are contract law, medical law and energy law but I also have long standing passion for the history of the university and I love all of the arts, especially music.

If elected as a staff representative to Court I would do my best to represent the interests of all staff and to speak truth to power if necessary. I have served as an elected member of Senate on and off over the years. I was a Senate Representative on Court between 2004 and 2007, so I know what the role of being a member of Court entails.

PLEASE VOTE: I would be grateful if you would give me your first preference vote but please vote for whichever candidate you think is the best. This election is the only opportunity that gives all staff a chance to elect a member of our governing body. Please use it.

Dr Kim Walker

To members of the University community, I would like to introduce myself and describe why I am standing as an academic staff member candidate for the University Court. My name is Kim Walker, who moved to the North of Scotland as an undergraduate at the University and have remained here in Scotland. I completed both my Ph.D and postdoctoral fellowships at the University and the Rowett Institute. I then worked for several years in various roles in the public sector before returning to my alma mater. I have a deep commitment to academic excellence and a passion for empowering academic staff members so wish to offer my skills and expertise to represent you and contribute to the growth and success of the University of Aberdeen.

I am currently employed as a Senior Lecturer in medical education on a teaching and research contract. I work part-time, similar to many staff in our institution. This is significant since it brings not only another perspective to this crucial position but provides flexibility for time management and prioritisation of work.

Over the course of my career, I have held several senior positions in large and complex public sector organisations including the NHS, charitable institutions (as a trustee) and regulators. As a result of my involvement with committees and boards at local, national, and international levels, I now have a thorough understanding of governance structures and procedures. I have actively participated in decision-making, policy formulation, strategic planning and change management while collaborating with important key stakeholders, frequently in the face of financial restrictions. I am dedicated to promoting transparency, accountability and moral judgement in all aspects of decision making.

A key skill of an academic is critical analysis and attention to detail. This has been vital in my work relating to quality management, assurance and performance monitoring enabling me to read and assess large volumes of data and information, evaluate situations holistically, make informed judgements and offer constructive feedback. I consider I approach each situation with an open mind, evaluate all points of view, and analyse the relevant data to provide a judgement that upholds the principles of fairness, equity and transparency.

I am keen we all work together, as exemplified in Aberdeen 2040, to explore new frontiers in teaching and research, embracing new technologies and pedagogical approaches. All staff, should be encouraged to experiment, collaborate and lead transformative initiatives which will shape the future of education and scholarship and make the University a world leader.

In summary, I hope my breadth of expertise and experience both within and outside the University, together with the unique perspective as a part-time member of staff and a deep commitment to empowering academic staff members and promoting excellence will persuade you to vote for me in this important role. With my leadership, collaborative skills, strategic vision and a passion for innovation, if elected, I will work on your behalf to support the growth and success of our institution as outlined in our University vision, Aberdeen 2040.