Elected Academic Staff (Non-professorial) – College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order

1. Dr Alexa Bellows
2. Dr Jaime Garcia Iglesias
3. Dr Andy Hopker
4. Dr Andy Law
5. Dr Mathias Lorbeer
6. Dr Susan Morrow
7. Dr Pau Navarro
8. Mrs Magdalena Parys
9. Dr Aryelly Rodriguez
10. Dr Lucas Seuren

Dr Alexa Bellows

Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Academic staff (Non-professorial)

Eligible for early career positions (up to and including Grade 08)

I am a Chancellor's Fellow in the Division of Agriculture and Food Systems in the Vet School. My research focusses on how diet impacts health and the environment and how upstream factors within the food system influence people's diet. In addition, I teach a variety of nutrition and food systems-related courses, including running the undergraduate challenge course "Healthy Eating for People and Planet". My role has afforded me experience in cross-disciplinary collaboration, policy development, and staff-student engagement. I am also actively involved in EDI working group on the Easter Bush campus.

As an early-career member of the Senate, I am excited about the prospect of contributing to policy and strategy on learning/teaching and promotion of research. In addition, I hope to ensure ECR voices are represented and heard in conversations about academic direction and university-wide strategies.

Dr Jaime Garcia Iglesias

School of Population Health Sciences

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Academic staff (Non-professorial)

Eligible for early career positions (up to and including Grade 08)

I am a Chancellor's Fellow in the Centre for Biomedicine, Self and Society at the Usher Institute. My research brings together social science and public health to examine inequality, stigma, and community knowledge in responses to infectious disease. Working across disciplines and in partnership with community and policy organisations, I am committed to fostering an inclusive and collaborative research and teaching culture that recognises diverse forms of expertise and experience.

I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to Senate at a time when the University is navigating significant uncertainty. Alongside my research and teaching, I serve as Co-Chair of the CMVM Research Staff Committee, where I work closely with colleagues and senior leadership to ensure that commitments to inclusion, interdisciplinarity and community engagement are supported by transparent processes, fair workloads, and sustainable structures. I believe academic culture is shaped not only by strategic vision, but by the funding models, career pathways and governance decisions that underpin it.

If elected, I would bring a constructive, cross-disciplinary perspective grounded in research governance, early- and mid-career experience, and sustained engagement with community and policy partners. I am committed to supporting colleagues through change while upholding excellence in teaching and research.

Dr Andy Hopker

Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Academic staff (Non-professorial)

Not eligible for early career positions (Grade 09 or above)

A highly experienced clinical academic I would represent the staff and students of R(D)SVS, providing academic oversight for our rigorous degree qualification, which must meet national and international standards for professional recognition. My deep understanding of the BVM&S degree course, and the landscape in which it is situated, will help to ensure that our unique clinical and professional requirements are integrated into broader university governance. I would be a strong advocate for the needs of clinical rotations, and the proper use of university estate and farms, not only to support our teaching and research, but to be exemplars of good practice in farming, animal welfare, and environmental restoration.

I will participate actively in the creation and amendment of university policies, in line with the strategic plan, ensuring that there is no conflict with the professional standards of the RCVS and other professional bodies, and upholding of our world-class standards of education, clinical care, and research.

As a clinician I am committed to in clinic and field research which readily translates to changes in practice to improve outcomes for patients, owners, and the environment.

I am passionate about creating and cultivating places to study and work which are not only inclusive, but celebrate the diversity of our students, colleagues, and partner organisations; while supporting mental health and career journeys for all. I believe that the university should not only be a place to learn and work, but a place that works for us all, on a journey of lifelong learning.

Dr Andy Law

Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Academic staff (Non-professorial)

Eligible for early career positions (up to and including Grade 08)

I joined Senate in 2023 because I wanted to represent the voice of research staff in the running of the University. I've been active in my role, serving on working groups, speaking at meetings, and co-authoring papers. I'd like the opportunity to continue that active role and to see some of the projects that we have initiated through to completion.

In my time on Senate, I hope that I've presented a fair and balanced representation of the views of my colleagues in the best interests of both staff and the organisation. I am lucky that my career stage allows me to sometimes present opinions that those earlier in their careers might not be able to express freely, and I hope to continue to be as candid as required in a second term.

Dr Mathias Lorbeer

School of Regeneration and Repair

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Academic staff (Non-professorial)

Eligible for early career positions (up to and including Grade 08)

As your representative, I pledge to champion the interests of early career researchers and the scientific community based in the Institute for Regeneration and Repair in the Bioquarter campus. Their dedication, innovation, and pursuit of excellence are the backbone of our university's research prowess, and it is imperative that their needs and concerns are heard and addressed at the highest levels of governance.

Throughout my tenure, I will be guided by the principles of transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. I will work tirelessly to ensure that the voices of our early career researchers and scientists are not only heard but also valued and respected.

Moreover, I am committed to shedding light on the inner workings of the university's governance structure. As we all know, the Senate can sometimes seem like a distant and obscure entity, disconnected from the everyday lives of our community members. I aim to change this perception by raising awareness about Senate proceedings, making them more accessible, and demonstrating their relevance to our daily experiences.

By doing so, I hope to empower our community members with a deeper understanding of how our university is governed and how they can contribute to shaping its future. I believe that an informed and engaged community is the foundation upon which a thriving and responsive institution is built.

Dr Susan Morrow

Edinburgh Medical School

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Academic staff (Non-professorial)

Not eligible for early career positions (Grade 09 or above)

I am strongly committed to upholding robust academic standards and fostering a culture of continuous enhancement to ensure an excellent student experience and maintain the quality and standards of University's awards.

As Director of Quality for the Edinburgh Medical School, I oversee quality processes for all taught programmes in the school. With substantial experience across School- and College-level quality assurance, programme direction, curriculum design, and teaching delivery, I would bring practical, hands-on expertise of learning, teaching and research matters to the Senate.

Additionally, my experience as programme director for PGT provision has equipped me with extensive expertise in programme-level quality, forward planning, and the design of academically rigorous and operationally sustainable provision, in line with university strategy.

In conclusion, my experience across quality and teaching gives me a broad, interdisciplinary perspective well suited to the role of Senate member.

Dr Pau Navarro

Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Academic staff (Non-professorial)

Not eligible for early career positions (Grade 09 or above)

I have been a member of Senate since 2019. During my time of service I have aimed to engage constructively with colleagues within and outside Senate to bring to Senate discussions on important topics such as the impact on the ground of the Sustainable Travel Policy and the impact on colleagues, processes and finances of the difficulties in the implementation of the People and Money system. If I was selected to serve in Senate for a further term, I commit to continue to bring to Senate matters that have an impact on staff and students, and work with fellow Senate members and other stakeholders to maintain excellence and improve working and learning conditions within the University.

Mrs Magdalena Parys

Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Academic staff (Non-professorial)

Not eligible for early career positions (Grade 09 or above)

I am a Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Radiation Oncology at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, and I am committed to contributing actively to the strategic and collegial governance of our University. My academic training in the USA and Canada, combined with my clinical, teaching and research roles, has given me experience in academic structures, curriculum development and collaborative decision-making.

I currently serve on the BVM&S Learning and Teaching Committee, the Student–Staff Liaison Committee, the EB Wellbeing Committee, and the Final Year Assessment Working Group. Through these roles, I have developed a strong understanding of how policy, assessment and wellbeing are closely connected to student success. I believe that excellence in teaching is inseparable from wellbeing: students perform best when they feel supported, included and connected, and when assessment is fair, transparent and aligned with learning outcomes.

If elected to Senate, I will contribute to shaping learning, teaching and research strategy in alignment with the University's long-term vision, while safeguarding academic standards and promoting research excellence. I will advocate for evidence-based decision-making, inclusive practices, and thoughtful integration of in-person and distance learning to enhance engagement and community.

Above all, I am committed to fostering a culture of compassion, integrity and academic citizenship. It would be an honour to represent my colleagues and contribute constructively to the future direction of our University.

Dr Aryelly Rodriguez

School of Population Health Sciences

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Academic staff (Non-professorial)

Eligible for early career positions (up to and including Grade 08)

I have been a member of Senate since 2023 and am seeking re-election, as I believe I continue to be a strong and committed candidate for the role. I am currently a full-time Senior Clinical Trial Statistician within the University of Edinburgh ECTU department. I am a highly engaged member of Senate: I consistently attend meetings, review all documentation thoroughly, and actively contribute to discussions and voting.

I bring a broad and diverse range of student experiences, having been an undergraduate student, a foreign student, a full-time on-campus and part-time distance-learning Master of Science student, and a mature part-time PhD student. In addition, I am an integral member of a department that delivers large-scale research projects. These experiences allow me to understand student needs across different stages of study while also appreciating the institutional requirements involved in delivering high-quality teaching and research.

During my time at the University of Edinburgh, I served on the PhD Student Usher Committee, where I supported fellow students in adjusting to life in Scotland and navigating administrative processes. Having been a foreign student myself, I understand the challenges this transition can present and remain committed to improving the student experience.

As a woman in STEM, I actively engage in outreach by visiting local schools to encourage young women to pursue studies in the sciences and to help address gender imbalance in traditionally male-dominated fields. I am a strong advocate for inclusivity and believe that talent and potential should be recognised, supported, and allowed to flourish.

Dr Lucas Seuren

School of Population Health Sciences

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Academic staff (Non-professorial)

Eligible for early career positions (up to and including Grade 08)

I am standing for the Senate to help advance an inclusive and supportive research culture across the university. Financial uncertainty within the University and reorganization of the funding landscape are creating an uncertain environment, especially for early-career researchers and researchers who are in Edinburgh on a visa. The ever-present concern of whether they will be allowed to stay in Edinburgh impacts life quality and their ability to deliver their best research. This uncertainty poses a threat to the university's long-term success, as it becomes harder to attract international talent, and current scholars may pursue a career outside the UK.

I am a research fellow with experience supporting research culture across the Netherlands, UK, and Canada. As a PhD student, I was a member of the University Committee for Academic Practice, which advises the board on research quality across the university, and where I helped prepare departments for national academic review (equivalent of the REF). Subsequently, as a post-doc, I chaired the departmental EMCR committee, advancing the interests and concerns of early- and mid-career researchers to senior management.

I have a strong commitment to creating an equitable research climate, aligned with the Edinburgh Race Review published last year. In 2022, I chaired a virtual global conference (>200 participants) to provide opportunities for researchers from historically excluded communities (e.g., due to financial or visa constraints). In a previous position, I was a member of the Anti-Black Racism Action Committee, helping to shape meaningful policy and action to create an anti-racist institution.