



AHUA ELECTIONS 2020

The AHUA is holding an election for two places on the AHUA Executive.

The election is being administered by Civica, formerly Electoral Reform Services, and will take place in August / early September.

Each institution has one voting member who will be contacted directly by Civica.

There are four candidates: their statements are below.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

**Stephen Dudderidge, Registrar & Secretary,
University of Brighton**



The current period is likely to prove career-defining for most of us in university leadership roles, yet many of the challenges we now face pre-date the pandemic. And in a world of increasing regulation, market competition and changing international circumstances our sector remains on the back-foot when seeking to position itself once again as an unambiguous 'good' for our society.

I value AHUA's role in building resilience among senior leaders within the sector and, during my time at the Universities of Brighton and Nottingham, have been grateful for the career development and mentorship provided by the Association. I now feel that I am in a position to contribute to the Executive's work in ensuring that the AHUA continues to use its voice to influence and guide decision-makers during the difficult times ahead.

In addition to my experience of service leadership and governance, I have acted as the AHUA representative on UUK's task group exploring the issue of information sharing with parents and other agencies. I have delivered UUK workshops on HE and *Prevent*, and contributed to sector guidance on external speakers and freedom of speech. I also joined a UUK group chaired by the Minister for Higher Education to consider issues around antisemitism within institutions.

It would be an honour to play a role in helping guide the AHUA at this time and I hope I get the opportunity to make such a contribution.

**Paul Ratcliffe, Chief Operating Officer,
St. George's, University of London**



I am delighted to have the opportunity to stand as a nationally elected member of the AHUA Executive.

Since becoming Chief Operating Officer of St. George's, University of London, back in 2016, AHUA has been an invaluable source of support to me. I have attended many excellent conferences and regional meetings and have developed a professional network that can provide advice and support, based on the well-informed and excellent links that AHUA has with other HE organisations, our regulator and the government. I have also been supported by coaching and an excellent action learning set to help me navigate the role of COO.

I have worked in HE for my entire career, at a range of universities and in a leadership role on a major international project to set up a medical school. I have had a series of roles from being an Administrative Officer to becoming a COO. I am passionate about HE and the value it has for individuals, communities and society as a whole.

The Coronavirus Pandemic has caused unprecedented disruption and has made an already challenging sector even more challenging. If elected, I will actively contribute to the work of the AHUA Executive in order to support universities at this uncertain and challenging time. In particular, having recently represented AHUA on the AUA's Future HE Professionals Project Stakeholder Reference Group, I would also like to support AHUA's work to promote and encourage HE Administration and Professional Services as a career pathway.

**James Rolfe, Chief Operating Officer,
Anglia Ruskin University**



There are 3 reasons why I am standing for one of the vacant AHUA National Executive roles.

First, AHUA has never been more important and is key to our collective future. I will work with colleagues to ensure that AHUA shapes the sector as it adapts and develops to ensure HE remains a world-class asset, and that AHUA supports and develops its members and potential members so that the sector has a strong, resilient, skilled workforce. I will work with colleagues to ensure AHUA represents its members locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, and continues to be a first choice for advice, guidance and counsel to policy makers.

Second, I really enjoy working in HE. It is a stimulating, interesting, life changing sector, with good networks, real opportunities and some challenges too. My background, across central and local government, as well as my current experience in HE and my involvement in wider networks, such as the CBI's Regenerating Regions National Steering Group, has proved invaluable. Those skills and experience will, I believe, be equally valuable to AHUA, as we help to shape the organisation, sector and economy to thrive in the coming months and years ahead.

Third, my university – Anglia Ruskin – is a modern, post-92 institution with a strong presence in public services. If elected, I am keen to represent the perspectives of the post-92 part of the sector, which are vital to the post-Covid, post-Brexit economy, so that these vital elements of recovery are embedded in our thinking.

Paula Sanderson, Registrar, SOAS

I returned to work in the UK approaching four years ago after some time working the Higher Education sectors in Australia and Malaysia and it is through AHUA that I found professional support, advice and established networks and formed friendships that helped me to navigate my first senior leadership role in the UK. These experiences have motivated me to stand for the national executive.



I have three broad priorities:

1. **Build our community:** I'm an active advocate for AHUA. I have the drive to build our professional community further. I want to give senior leaders access to knowledge, advice and experience beyond our own institutions.
2. **Professionalise our sector:** I am passionate about professionalising university central services. I have built incredible teams and restructured services in the UK and abroad. My track record is about broadening and deepening talent in the sector - and through AHUA I want to ensure professional services is a career option for thousands of the brilliant students that we all graduate.
3. **Drive Change:** Together we can and should have a positive influence on the future of the sector. We deliver a broad and complex portfolio in a now heavily regulated environment and we are often at the pointy end of delivery. AHUA provides a platform and voice through which we can shape the direction of travel.

If am I fortunate to be elected, I will bring my commitment, energy and resilience to the AHUA Board and to working with the whole community. AHUA is essential to our sector's collective voice, influence and standing, now more than ever, as we navigate unprecedented times. I will be very grateful for your support.