

AHUA ELECTIONS 2023

The AHUA is holding an election for two places on the AHUA Executive Committee. The election is being run by Civica, formerly Electoral Reform Services, and will take place from 19 June to 5 July 2023.

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

There are four candidates: their statements are below listed in alphabetical order by last name.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Michaela Boryslawskyj, University Secretary, Sheffield Hallam University

I am delighted to be considered for the post of nationally elected member of the AHUA executive, having been an active member of AHUA since 2014, when I became University Secretary at the University of Huddersfield, and continuing my membership when I moved to Sheffield Hallam University in 2019. I believe my skills (particularly my grounding in legal, regulatory, governance and compliance matters) combined with my experience at two very different post-92 universities and my personal commitment to the importance of widening participation would enable me to make a valuable contribution as a member of executive.



I have benefitted from a hugely rewarding career in higher education over the past 14 years, which started with a focus on leading the in-house legal and information governance provision and broadened to encompass all aspects of governance, legal and regulatory compliance; which feels like an increasingly important part of university life and a key strategic enabler in supporting the success of institutions.

AHUA occupies an important space, ensuring effective representation on key issues and policies to the OfS, government and other key stakeholders. This is needed more than ever as we continue to respond to the various and intensifying regulatory and legislative demands, in an increasingly volatile and financially constrained environment. I'd like to support the Association to continue this expert advocacy on behalf of its members, being passionate to contribute in particular to the consideration of ongoing legal matters, including proposals for a statutory duty of care, Martyn's Law and the implementation of Freedom of Speech (Higher Education) Act 2023.

We are in the era of 'more focussed and active regulation' by the OfS, arguably representing views on these matters has never been more critical. I'd very much like to see AHUA continuing to be at the forefront of this debate and, if appointed, I would bring my drive (and at times frustration) to promote clarity of understanding and engagement with the sector to improve the regulatory experience for all.

AHUA participation has always been an important part of my life as a University Secretary, I've previously made specific contributions as a blog champion and am currently serving a second term as the AHUA representative on the UCEA Health and Safety Committee. The

Association is an invaluable source of support and advice, whether that be through the sharing of best practice through the online forum, discussions at the Northern Group, networking at the Autumn and Spring conferences, or personal development through participation in coaching and learning sets. I always think that roles like ours can run the risk of feeling quite isolating, so I'm incredibly keen to support AHUA to continue these activities so others can equally benefit from the support and friendship.

As the Autumn conference host, I have had the privilege of being a member of the AHUA Executive Committee on a temporary basis, so have witnessed first-hand the hard work of Executive colleagues to support and promote the Association and sector and would very much welcome the opportunity to continue my engagement and contribution.

Emma French, Executive Director, Governance and Assurance, University of Salford



I am delighted to be standing for election to join the Executive because I have always benefitted from sector groups, including AHUA, throughout my career. I find the willingness to share the good, the bad and the ugly with colleagues from other institutions one of the most affirming aspects of the sector, and it is this spirit of sharing that has been so beneficial to me in my own career. I now want to play a role in the facilitation of this sharing of best practice, particularly as the regulatory and political environments make it ever more challenging.

I have worked in HE for over 15 years, starting off in a Russell Group institution, then moving to a small post-92 before moving to Salford as the Executive Director Governance and Assurance and University Secretary. My experience has covered everything from marketing and student recruitment, to managing departmental administration, and central admissions, student life and registry functions. My current role covers University Secretary duties, as well as student casework, legal and compliance and quality assurance. My experience has covered nearly all aspects of university administration and I am committed to working in this hugely rewarding and transformative sector.

I would be delighted to use this experience, alongside my strong commitment to AHUA's work, and join the Executive to continue to make a positive contribution to the sector.

James Rolfe, Chief Operating Officer, Anglia Ruskin University



I am delighted to have the opportunity to stand again for election to the AHUA National Executive.

I am pleased and proud to be a member of AHUA. It brings together Heads of Administration from all our universities to provide mutual support, advice, camaraderie and a host of development opportunities. I value its contribution to my own personal development, and to the broader leadership and management of the higher education sector more generally. It is a vital voice for leading, shaping and managing our sector.

There are 3 reasons why I am standing for election to the Executive:

- **Development** – for AHUA as an organisation, and for our members and prospective members as well. If elected to the Exec, for me, that means building on the excellent work we already do - coaching, mentoring, conferences and the various programmes AHUA runs - but, also, understanding what our members, up and coming talent and sector colleagues need to thrive in a period of rapid change.
- **Debate** – I will work hard with colleagues to engage across AHUA's extensive networks to make sure HE continues to be a world-class asset, something that we can all be proud of and a sector that people want to work in and collaborate with.
- **Diversity** – to be truly representative of the communities we serve, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, I, as part of AHUA, will continue the vital work to improve diversity and champion inclusivity in our sector, across all aspects of our work and ways that are meaningful for everyone.

Andrew Young, Chief Operating Officer, London School of Economics



I am delighted to take this opportunity to apply for the role of Nationally Elected Member with the AHUA and it would be an honour to be elected. I am currently COO at the London School of Economics and have been in Higher Education all my working life. I began with a PhD at Newcastle and followed that with seven years as a researcher before moving into administration in 1995, firstly in a department, then at Faculty level. I moved to London in 2012 to become COO at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine before moving to the LSE in 2016.

I am passionate about building equality in universities, not only in terms of protected characteristics and social background but also in asserting the vital importance of professional administration to the success of these brilliant organisations. I am currently participating in the AHUA reciprocal mentoring scheme as I believe it is vital that our membership becomes more diverse in terms of ethnicity over the next few years, and I want to see more people of colour make it to the top of the administrative tree.

I have benefited hugely from the comradeship and advice that membership of the AHUA brings. I want to develop this by helping to ensure the continued success of the Association in representing the sector and continuing to advocate for the recognition of the enormously important role we play in UK society and particularly in transforming the lives of young people across the nation.