

ELECTION OF TWO ACADEMIC STAFF MEMBERS (LEVEL A, B or C) FROM THE COLLEGE OF HUMAN AND SOCIAL FUTURES TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE FOR TERM 1 JANUARY 2027 TO 31 DECEMBER 2028

(5 NOMINATIONS RECEIVED)

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



DR ELENA AYDOS

I have been at the University of Newcastle for 11 years, currently as a Senior Lecturer in the School of Law and Justice, HDR Program Convenor, and Founding Chair of the Australia–Brazil Climate Law and Policy Research Network. As a cancer survivor, a member of the CALD community, and the primary carer of my five-year-old son, I understand the importance of ensuring that our Academic Senate reflects the breadth of experiences within our community and that institutional decisions take account of the diverse realities of our staff and students. I am an advocate for positive change, having recently provided evidence to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the university sector. I would be honoured to place my leadership and lived experience in the service of my colleagues and contribute constructively to the future of our University.

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DR DAVID ROY

I am a Lecturer in Education in the School of Education with experience across teaching, research, governance and engagement with the broader education sector. My work has involved collaboration with schools, professional organisations, government agencies and parliamentary inquiries, providing opportunities to contribute to educational policy, curriculum reform and system improvement.

I currently contribute to University governance through service as a School of Education proxy representative to Academic Senate and through committee membership within CHSF. These experiences have reinforced the importance of evidence-informed decision-making, constructive dialogue and strong academic leadership. I am seeking election to Academic Senate because I value collegial governance and the role of academic staff in shaping the future of the University. I would bring a collaborative, informed and inclusive approach, with a commitment to representing colleagues and supporting excellence in teaching, learning, research and academic life.

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DR JUDITH ZHU

Having worked at the Newcastle Business School for the past 15 years, I would be honoured to represent colleagues on Academic Senate. Throughout my time with the UON, I have valued the opportunity to contribute to the University through teaching, research, program development and academic service. My experience includes developing and leading courses, contributing to Global MBA program development, serving as Student Academic Conduct Officer since 2017 and NBS Sydney campus coordinator. I have also gained valuable governance experience as an observing member of the College Board and through advanced leadership training program and Board of Director training program organised by the University. My research in international business and human resource management, together with my strong commitment to academic quality, collegiality and the student experience, would allow me to contribute thoughtfully and constructively to Senate discussions. I look forward to the opportunity to bring a committed and informed perspective to Academic Senate.

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DR KATE FERGUSON-PATRICK

An experienced academic for the past 26 years, I am currently a Level C academic in the School of Education, CHSF. As a Faculty/College Board academic representative for 10 years, I supported the voices of Level A–C academics in relation to academic decisions made within the University. For the past 2 years I have been a member of Senate and volunteered to mentor a student representative on the CHMW College Board. My position as College Board student representative mentor for two years led me to support the student voice in College matters, and my experience as Acting Program Convenor (Primary), one of the largest undergraduate programs in the University, has developed my understanding of university-wide issues. My research interests include cooperative learning and global education. I am an active member of Pacific Rise Research group and recently received a prestigious international Global Impact grant due to my work with the SDGs.

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DR JUSTIN ELLIS

A college voice on the academic senate is essential to ensure our issues get a fair hearing, and that we have opportunity to participate in initiatives where we could make a difference. Having had college board experience across two schools within our college (2020-2021 (HASS)/2024-2026(SLJ)), and as a CHSF elected staff member of academic senate (2026), I am keen to represent you. In addition to my commitment to service, I bring to the role my demonstrated research, education, and engagement track record on institutional trust. External recognition of this track record includes my appointment to the NSW Police Force Task Force Atlas community consultative committee (2024~) in response to the NSW Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes 1970-2010. I am the elected NSW member of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology committee of management (2025-2026), and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (2025~).

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