

Office Bearer Group Candidates December 2021 Vote

Christine Calder, Academic Development Lead, Dundee and Angus College

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children” Maasai Proverb

Like many around the world I have been aware of the plight of the earth all of my life and as I have grown older, I have on occasion found myself feeling a bit hopeless, like I can't do anything that would realistically help. Then I remember what my job is... I teach teachers and in turn they teach our students. So, what I teach, in terms of embedding sustainability or leading with sustainability in lessons has the potential to reach around 20,000 students every year, and that is just in the college I work in. I am very aware of the privilege I have, that directly influences the student experience.

From a personal point of view, it's the right thing to do. At last year's EAUC Scotland conference I was moved by many of the speakers and I was delighted to be invited to contribute. I have had my eyes truly opened to the breadth and depth of what sustainability means with the Sustainable Development Goals. The student population is the beating heart of every educational institute and college's students are diverse and unique. They deserve the opportunity to explore what sustainability means to them as individuals, within their local community, within their country and throughout the globe. There is much to be done in the college sector and I would truly love to be a part of it.

Roddy Yarr, Assistant Director (Sustainability and Environmental Management), University of Strathclyde

Dr Roddy Yarr is an Assistant Director (Sustainability and Environmental Management) at the University of Strathclyde where he is responsible for leading the development and delivery of climate change and social responsibility initiatives and the University's response to net zero emissions across all of its assets. Roddy has a wealth of experience and connections in delivering climate change and social responsibility initiatives and projects that can add value to the work of EAUC. His can-do attitude and his ability to develop ideas and make them happen is very much part of his approach to climate action. Roddy is currently the senior lead for several major capital climate related projects at the University, all of which involve multi-stakeholder collaborations and which will transform the city campus. Roddy is leading the £3.5M Sustrans-funded Places for Everyone collaboration with the City of Glasgow College, Sustrans, the community of Townhead and Glasgow City Council delivering active travel and urban realm improvements in the city centre Learning Quarter. He recently developed a 'Climate Neutral Districts' Vision that will deploy 100% renewable heat, power, active travel, adaptation and well-being solutions across all University assets in the central belt of Scotland.

Roddy is Deputy Chair of the Climate Ready Clyde Board; Deputy Chair of the AUDE Sustainability Advisory Group; SAUDE Environment lead; external advisor on the Scottish Parliament Sustainability Board; member of the Glasgow Metro Strategic Advisory Board.

Roddy's collaborative and highly effective style, passion and experience mean that he is able to positively influence people and implement solutions that respond to climate change issues.

Severine Monvoisin, Community Garden Coordinator, Edinburgh College

The EC Sustainability Team is part of the Estate Service however I work across the curriculum and hundreds of students every year using the gardens as a medium to engage about sustainability.

I am an active member of the EC Sustainability Steering Group and of the Sustainability in the Curriculum group. The last two years I have deputised for the college Sustainability Officer and have become the go to person in the organisation for all matters related to Sustainability. I have gained experience in strategic alignment, curriculum policy and strategy, sustainability leadership at academic and operational levels. During the absence of the Sustainability Officer I have concentrated in sustainability in the curriculum, advocating for the SDGs to be included in the new strategies and to move towards recording sustainability activities in the curriculum to match them with the related SDGs. This year I actively participated in the information gathering / collation task for the Head of Corporate Services and in the writing of the report for the SDG Accord. I participated in the review and drafting of the approved Edinburgh College Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2019-24. I believe it is time to move the sustainability agenda away from the carbon reduction and estate's management agenda towards behavioural changes at all levels of our institutions and society in order to become a more resilient and equitable society.

Billy Currie, Head of Corporate Services, Dumfries and Galloway College

I believe that education plays a key role in tackling climate change and, as an EAUC office bearer, I will pledge to ensure the key work carried out in Scotland FE and HE institutions continues and is given the recognition it deserves.

Over the last year I have worked as part of the UK wide Climate Commission Council and would use that link to further promote and influence the work carried out by EAUC Scotland and our FE and HE institutions.

If successful to this role I will work to ensure that sustainability and climate change matters become the cultural norm in our educational institutions and that a sectorial collaborative approach is developed to lead us towards a net zero society.

I will have a passion for driving cultural change to the role of office bearer, a passion that has been key to the success of our efforts at D&G College.