

Colin Hunter OBE

Why I am Standing to be Chair of Board Governors RGU?

I was delighted to become a Governor of RGU in January 2019 and to be appointed Vice Chair of the Board of Governors in December. At this key time for all universities in Scotland, and particularly as we appoint a new Principal, I offer an element of continuity moving forward.

Since graduating in 1981, I have been passionate about the delivery of high-quality education. I also have considerable experience of being a Trustee/Governor and of chairing a similar Board for the Royal College of General Practitioners UK. The role of Chair of Governors would allow me to utilise my experience for the benefit of the university.

With the support of the Board and importantly our excellent award-winning staff and students, I believe I can use my energy and passion to help move our University to an even stronger place in the next four years.

We already achieve high standards at RGU relative to other Scottish universities. I want to help us to build on this and improve further.

People are our major asset at RGU. I want to help ensure we further strengthen communication and consultation.

In response to the core funding challenge, I will support the new Principal to:

- Enhance our collaboration with industry and health services, thus maintaining our reputation of employability of our graduates both locally and nationally;
- Ensure that we innovate and develop our educational programmes to meet the existing and changing needs of the country;
- Improve the green credentials of the University;
- Further strengthen the digital infrastructure;
- Diversify our income streams through identification of opportunities;
- Build our income streams, by increasing our profile, attractiveness to overseas students and research activity;
- Work with our sister Universities to ensure Scottish Government are aware of the funding imperative and potential consequences of further funding reductions

Short Synopsis - Career and Achievements to Date

I was a GP locally for 33 years. My practice provided high-quality, patient-centred care and we were proud to be at the forefront of changes in the NHS.

Leadership roles: Chair of the Royal College of GPs in Scotland (1996-2000): I developed collaborative relationships with other medical disciplines, pharmacy, nursing, allied health professionals, social services and crucially patient groups. I led the development of a world-leading quality assurance programme for general practice. I received an OBE for Services to Primary Care.

National Co-ordinator for Primary Care, NHS Education for Scotland (2000-2005) responsible for all GP training nationally, often collaborating with pharmacy and nursing. I led on the development of a quality assurance framework for UK general practice.

Honorary Treasurer of the Royal College of General Practitioners (2003 -2012): I oversaw the RCGP moving from an income of £12M to over £40M with membership of over 50,000. I lead the purchase and refurbishment of a new HQ in London.

Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Royal College of General Practitioners (2012-2018): I led on improving overall governance and the diversification of income.

Currently, I am **Vice Chair of Leonard Cheshire Disability (2011 -)**. The 26th largest charity in the UK, we are currently undertaking a major change to our service delivery. I have chaired a new People Committee, leading staff through the change.

Trustee for Drinkaware UK (2019 -) and St Margaret's Arts Trust Braemar (2019-). The latter, a small local charity, involves a range of a skills from sweeping the floors to applying for very large grants!

I was brought up in a small mining village in central Scotland. The opportunities offered through education, school, university and post-graduate, have helped me make a difference. I want to ensure that opportunity is offered to generations to come.