Dr Alison Michelle Newby - MA American Studies 1987, PhD 1992

I believe in the value the University of Manchester (UoM) brings to individuals and communities (local, national and international). I’m grateful for the opportunities the UoM’s given me, both as a student and more recently as an alumna contributing time and experience in various capacities. I want to see the UoM flourish, and the Alumni Association to deepen its influence at the core of what the UoM does - from helping fund infrastructure and resources to mentoring students and forwarding the social responsibility agenda.

I’d bring several perspectives on the UoM to a role on the General Assembly:

- **Staff** - as a qualified coach helping staff cope with the many changes ongoing in the institution, who writes about coaching and has made it my business to understand the context and rationale for the changes that are underway;
- **Community** - as historian and Honorary Research Associate at the University’s Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre, showcasing resources recording the unheard voices of communities which have settled in the region. Providing public and academic engagement-orientated copy for the Centre blog means I understand the transformative power shedding light on ‘hidden’ experience via a UoM-connected open access entity can offer those for whom university would be a distant dream;
- **Student** - from my own experience in conjunction with involvement in workshops for current students on the award-winning MyLearningEssentials programme (study skills) as well as Sustainability Challenge (part of the Ethical Grand Challenges);
- **International** - through research on the international student experience past and present, revealing the development of the services international students are able to benefit from today.

These varied perspectives, plus a broad understanding of the HE context, mean I would bring an informed, balanced approach to reflecting the alumni community’s voice at the heart of the organization.