



Get to know University Councillor Jeremy Gooden, Sc'16:



1. What is your most memorable moment as a student?

I met my wife in first year at Queen's but it's tough to narrow down a single moment together. Breakfasts at Ban Righ, studying together, watching her walk across the graduation stage...too many to count!

2. What is your current career?

I've been a management consultant for 6+ years and work at Boston Consulting Group, and am currently on a one-year externship in private equity at Altas Partners. I work in the firm's internal consulting team where we partner with leaders at our portfolio companies to help them grow, which, for example, could include expanding into new geographies & markets or acquiring new businesses.

3. What is the best career advice you've ever received?

The best advice I received was from another Queen's grad while I was a summer student between my 3rd and 4th year. I think I was too naïve at the time and believed the world was a meritocracy, but I didn't believe in the power that networking could have on one's life. While chatting with this Queen's grad and debating if networking was useless or not, she said that I could either "play the game" and reap the benefits to advance in career and life, or continue to believe life was a true meritocracy and be left behind. Putting it that simply cut through the noise for me as I definitely didn't want to be left behind, so from then on I've been very focused on networking and how to "get ahead" beyond traditional means, which has helped me many times both personally and professionally.

4. What is the career highlight you're most proud of?

One of my consulting projects through work was partnering with the United Nations Development Programme to help four countries' small & medium businesses recover better from the COVID-19 pandemic during late 2020/early 2021. This was a particularly tough time around the world and with small & medium businesses being the engine of many economies, I was very fortunate to be able to give back in this way.

5. How do you spend your free time?

Watching European football, trying new workout classes in Toronto with my wife, going on hikes with my two dogs, or spending time with family and friends!

6. What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?

I have two primary reasons for being involved in University Council – supporting & advancing Black equity (and more broadly, DE&I) at Queen’s and having a platform to support young alumni as they transition from Queen’s to the workforce given the stresses of the pandemic. It’s encouraging to see the progress we’ve made on DE&I at Queen’s and as well the programming to help young grads, but of course we’re in the early innings for both of these. On the transition for young grads to the workforce, now is a particularly tough time for finding employment given the labour market squeeze (primarily in tech but also other sectors) and I’ve seen grads have full-time offers rescinded. I’m looking forward to staying involved in both topics and helping out where I can!

Connect with [Councillor Gooden](#) on LinkedIn