

2024 University Council Election Candidates

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order, by last name

Yinka Adegbusi

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

As an Artsci'13 graduate with a profound commitment to fostering youth empowerment, particularly within BIPOC communities, I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve as a University Councillor at Queen's University. My diverse background, encompassing leadership roles in student organizations and professional experience in data analytics at KPMG Canada, equips me with the skills and perspective to make meaningful contributions to the University Council's objectives.



My motivation for joining the University Council stems from a deep-seated passion to advocate for causes that resonate with today's youth. Throughout my academic journey, I have witnessed the transformative power of education and community engagement in empowering young individuals to reach their full potential. My experience as a co-founder and chair of the Queen's Black Alumni Chapter reflects my dedication to creating inclusive spaces where marginalized voices are heard and supported.

If elected as a University Councillor, I aim to leverage my platform to amplify the voices of underrepresented students and alumni, advocating for initiatives that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the university community. I am committed to fostering strong relationships with alumni, students, faculty, and other stakeholders to advance the university's strategic priorities and ensure that all members of the Queen's community feel valued and supported.

I aspire to serve as a catalyst for positive change, working alongside fellow councillors to shape policies and programs that empower the next generation of leaders. By embracing the principles of teamwork, empathy, and innovation, I am confident that together, we can cultivate a vibrant and inclusive university environment that fosters academic excellence and personal growth.

I look forward to the opportunity to contribute towards a brighter future for our alma mater.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

YINKA ADEGBUSI, Artsci'13, Edmonton, AB. Market Insights Manager, KPMG Canada. Co-founder and chair, Queen's Black Alumni Chapter (QBAC) ('17-'22). President, Queen's University Chamber Choir ('09-'12). Founding member, Queen's Black Academic Society (QBAS) and Queen's Black History Month. Board member, Queen's University Alumni Association (QUAA) Board ('20-'22). Recruitment Lead, KPMG Canada Black Professional Network ('20-'24). Active Member, KPMG Women in Technology Network. Passionate advocate for BIPOC youth empowerment causes.

Leo Bailey

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I wish to contribute to creating a more inclusive space at Queen's for the community at large. I had the privilege of experiencing world class education through the Accelerated MBA Program. When I walk the hallways of the various buildings on campus and see pictures of the graduating classes, I seldom see faces like mine. I want to help to open more channels for black community representation.



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Leo A. Bailey, MBA '17, Vaughan, ON, Member of the Scarborough Business Association Advisory Committee; Sick Kids Community Mental Health Board Trustee. Former member of the Ontario Trillium Fund Grant Committee and Queen's Black Alumni Chapter. Active community volunteer and co-founder of Success with Age and Guidance.

Samantha Cheung

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

My connection to Queen's University runs deep, beginning with my undergraduate and graduate studies in engineering. Decades later, I take immense pride in being a devoted Queen's parent, with 2 children currently enrolled, one on the brink of graduation. This relationship has instilled a profound appreciation for Queen's values of academic excellence, inclusivity and vibrant community.



In 2020, I was privileged to be elected by the alumni to the Queen's University Council and am now honoured to be seeking a second term. I have been actively involved in various committees having contributed insights and perspectives to initiatives aimed at advancing the university's strategic objectives. I am also thrilled to be elected by University Council to sit on the Queen's Board of Trustees for a three year term starting June 1.

As an ambassador for Queen's, I am deeply inspired by our institution's commitment to academic excellence and innovation. Recent challenges facing higher education, including financial constraints and the evolving landscape of education, underscore the critical role that Councillors play in helping to steer Queen's through these turbulent times. There are challenges ahead, but I feel optimistic and together, we can shape the future of Queen's and make a lasting impact.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

B.Sc. Eng (Sc.'92), M.Sc.Eng (Queen's '95), MBA (Rotman 2000), and ICD.D. (Rotman, 2018). Oakville, Ontario. Co-founder and Principal of Balsam Advisory Group Inc., a firm specializing in investor relations, capital advisory and governance advisory. Co-founder of FinStart, a not for profit organization focused on financial literacy education for youth. Investment Committee member of Appleby College Foundation and Boann Social Impact Fund. Former EVP of Investor Relations at

Sagicor Financial, with similar roles held at Intact Financial and Genworth Canada. She also held various senior roles at CIBC World Markets. At Queen's, member of the Orientation Program as FREC leader in '89, Women in Science and Engineering, and helped establish an ethanol pilot plant at Dupuis Hall in Chemical Engineering. Past Chair and Director of the Oakville Symphony Youth Orchestra Board and Current Chair of Oakville Symphony Board. Other past volunteer boards include Women in Capital Markets and the Canadian Institute of Investor Relations.

Gregory Galligan

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Like you all, I have watched with concern as our alma mater faces significant financial challenges. Recent news articles and updates from the administration project a sizeable financial deficit due to factors such as provincial tuition cuts and international student enrollment reductions. These challenges threaten the sustainability of our university's rich academic and research programs, making this a crucial period for hard choices and alumni involvement.



My motivation for joining the University Council stems from a deep commitment to ensuring that Queen's survives these trying times and thrives in the future. We need to revive what makes Queen's a special place: a commitment to academic and teaching excellence, world-class research, and a community spirit unlike any university in Canada.

With a decade of experience in diplomacy and crisis management, most recently as Canadian Ambassador to Iraq, I want to apply my financial management, strategic planning, and outreach and engagement skills to provide advice and support to Queen's University and its students to help address our current fiscal challenges.

During my term, I aim to leverage my background to work collaboratively with other council members and stakeholders to 1) enhance financial stability to ensure long-term sustainability without compromising academic excellence and 2) engage alumni to support fundraising and mentorship programs, enhancing the student experience and alumni involvement in university affairs.

Queen's has always been more than just an institution; it is a community that shapes leaders, fosters innovation, and contributes significantly to society. Many of my peers from Queen's have become political and thought leaders, renowned academics, and human rights champions. By joining the University Council, I hope to safeguard and enrich this legacy, ensuring that future generations can also call Queen's their proud alma mater. I am eager to bring my passion and expertise to the University Council, contributing to a bright and prosperous future for Queen's University.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Gregory Galligan (BA Hons [Political Studies and History], Queen's University, 2002; M.A. [International Relations], King's College, London, 2004). Former Castle Kid, QMP and Queen's Model U.N. participant. He joined Global Affairs Canada in 2005 and is currently the Executive Coordinator

for Middle East Relations. Overseas, he participated in the evacuation of Canadians from Lebanon in 2006, served at the Canadian Embassy of Canada to Israel (2007 to 2010), was Deputy Director with the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (2010 to 2011), worked alongside U.S. colleagues as Canada's exchange officer to the Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research (2011 to- 2013, as Canada's Executive Coordinator for Syria based in Beirut (2019-21). He recently returned to Canada after completing two years as Canada's Ambassador to Iraq (2021-23).

Bittu George

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I am seeking re-election to University Council to continue my work in improving the University and its community relations with the Kingston community. As a lifelong Kingstonian, former City Councillor and Deputy Mayor, and active member of various community groups and initiatives in Kingston, I am well suited to play an ambassador role between both communities, having seen the positive and negative sides of this relationship. As University Council representative to the Principal's Street Parties Task Force, I have been working with Queen's and Kingston stakeholders to find solutions and bring people together.



I also believe it is important to give back to my alma mater. I want to make sure that the benefits I received as a student are available for present and future students at Queen's. My work with the Alumni Association has given me the opportunity to interact with students and understand the challenges that they are currently facing, especially in terms of accessibility and inclusion. I have worked with other University Councillors to continue implementing the recommendations from the Queen's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Report and the Principal's Implementation Committee on Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (PICRDI). We are starting to see some improvements, but much more work needs to be done in this area at Queen's.

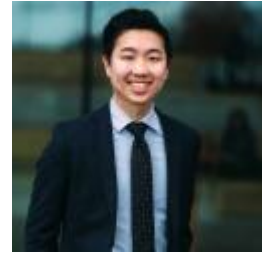
Finally, my experience in board governance in many organizations make me an excellent asset for University Council. From Kingston City Council, to hospital foundation boards, to community not-for-profits working with government agencies, I have seen from experience all sides and angles to this important role in any organization. I look forward to lending my experience in this area to University Council, helping to make improvements in this body, and indirectly, to the University itself. I humbly ask for your vote for the position of University Councillor. Thank you!

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Artsci '95, Law '98; Kingston, ON; lawyer, Member, Law Society of Ontario. Law Student Society Rep to AMS Assembly; Law '99 Orientation Administrative Co-chair; Member, Tricolour Award Selection Committee; QMP participant; Law '98 permanent year Vice President. Former city councillor/deputy mayor of Kingston. Member, Kingston Planning Committee. Director/VP, Kingston General Hospital Foundation. Director, University Hospitals Kingston Foundation. Director, Kingston Economic Development Corporation. Director/Secretary, Kingston Technology Exchange Centre (Queen's-Kingston partnership). President, Alumni Association - Kingston Branch. Director/Vice-Chair, Greater

Kingston Chamber of Commerce. Director/President, Friends of the Penitentiary Museum. VP, Kingston Area Race Relations Association. Bylaw Review Chair, Frontenac Law Association. Co-chair, SOARB; Member, Principal's Undergraduate Orientation Review Working Group. Member, Senate SOARB Review Working Group. Member, Principal's Task Force on Street Parties; University Council Rep to the Alumni Association.

Alexander Lam



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

As a 2016 Bachelor of Commerce graduate and Co-Founder of Rvere Inc., I bring a wealth of entrepreneurial insight and professional leadership to my candidacy for the University Council. My experience at Queen's was transformative, deeply influencing my approach to business and innovation. It instilled in me a set of core values that guided me through founding and scaling a software company that has served over 20,000 businesses.

Driven by a desire to contribute to the institution that has been pivotal in my life, I am committed to leveraging my professional insights and leadership skills to enhance the alumni network and deepen community engagement. My career has been marked by strategic growth and a dedication to inclusive practices, aligning closely with the Council's objectives.

I aim to champion initiatives that prioritize diversity and inclusion within the alumni community, reflecting the multifaceted nature of our global alumni base. As an Asian Canadian, the importance of representation resonates personally with me, and I am dedicated to ensuring that our leadership mirrors the rich diversity of Queen's itself.

My vision for Queen's involves not only upholding its tradition of excellence but also positioning it at the forefront of innovation and community leadership. By cultivating an engaged alumni network that supports the university's strategic goals and adapts to global changes, we can promote a sustainable and thriving future for Queen's.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Alexander Lam, B.Comm'16, Toronto, ON, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Rvere Inc. Founder, Lamify. Previously Reckitt Benckiser and Trend Hunter. At Queen's, Technology Officer at The Queen's Business Review 2012-15 and Advisor at Creo Solutions 2013-16. Current mentor with Press Start CoLab and Smith EDI3 Mentorship Program.

Jennifer McMaster

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Having a long history of being a student and an instructor with Queen's, I have a strong passion for Queen's and for its incredible programming and outstanding student environments. As a 28 year veteran educator, I have vast knowledge and understanding of exemplary pedagogy and andragogy. I have been a course instructor with Queen's Faculty of Education for 17 years and I am passionate about providing outstanding programming and learning experiences for students of all ages. As a community member of Kingston, I am committed to further promoting the iconic status of Queen's in our community and I thoroughly enjoy participating in many aspects that Queen's offers Kingston and surrounding communities. I would be thrilled and honoured to sit on this Board to further collaborate with the community and with all university community members of Queen's.



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jennifer McMaster, M.Ed.04, Gananoque, Ontario, Principal, member of the Ontario College of Teachers and the Ontario Principals' Council. Instructor for Queen's Faculty of Education. Avid spectator of Queen's sports and activities. Former undergraduate student of the University of Waterloo. Former educator with the Ontario College of Teachers, the Ontario Principals' Council and the University of Calgary. Current volunteer on the Board of Directors for Children and Family Services of Lanark, Leeds & Grenville, RNJ Youth Services, the Municipal Drug Strategy Committee for the Town of Gananoque and the Professional Learning Committee with the Ontario Principals' Council.

Irene Mukasa

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

During the second semester of my first year at Queen's University I had a moment of panic. I had survived a semester academically, but I struggled to feel like I belonged there. The search for belonging and community is what led me to get involved in the African Caribbean Student Association, Cultureshock, and the Committee Against Racial and Ethnic Discrimination. I often tell people that alongside getting a world-class education, I learned what building community truly means while at Queen's. My motivation to join University Council stems from my belief that post-secondary education institutions should be spaces where everyone finds community and belonging. I feel that this aligns with the University Council's directive around well-being and prosperity of the University. Much of that well-being and long-term prosperity start with how students experience the University and whether they truly feel at "home" there.



If selected to join University Council, I want to be a voice for students feeling lost, community-less, or out of place, and actively champion ways for the University to serve the needs of this demographic from the first day of Frosh week to the final day of graduation. With my extensive experience working

on governance and by-law focused boards and background in community, diversity, inclusion, and reputation management, (both at board levels and professionally) I feel that I can strongly contribute tangible solutions, applications, and ideas to elevate how students build lasting community and a strong sense of belonging at Queen's. I know my experience in second semester was not an isolated event, many other people of colour shared similar stories with me during their time at Queen's. I am eager to work with my fellow alumni through the Council to make Queen's as strong in belonging and community as it is in academics.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Irene Mukasa, BAH '08, MSc '09 (Bath University, UK). Toronto, Ontario. Director, Research Communications and Engagement, Autodesk. Course Instructor, George Brown College. DEI Communications consultant, Say Yeah. Member of African Caribbean Student Association (ACSA), ACSA Culture Show 07-08, Cultureshock, Committee Against Racial and Ethnic Discrimination. Former Board Member and Executive Board Member (VP DEI) for Children's Aid Society of Toronto 2016 - 2022, Former Brand Advisor for Canadian Film Company Incubator: Fifth Wave 2019-2023. Current Board member VentureKids Canada.

Alan Prendergast

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I did not earn entrance to Queen's based on my secondary school performance alone so my journey to that goal was longer than many. Inspired and encouraged by a number of family and friends who were attending or already among the alumni, I set to work on improving my candidacy through night school and work experience, eventually attending Trent University, where I achieved the high grades that eventually garnered the attention of the Queen's University Admissions. In June of '87 while taking an intercession course in Kingston, I received an offer of admission. It was the realization of a long-held dream of mine. I haven't finished my Queen's degree, but during my time as a student, I received everything I needed to build a successful life and career. I met my wife Cathy Rivard (Arts '89), developed a foundational understanding of Economics and Economic History, and most importantly, learned how to work with the academic community – all skills that continue to serve me well in my career at the University of Toronto.



Since the start of my adult life, I have focused on living an authentic life in the present. About 20 years ago I realized that helping Queen's current and future student community was an incredibly fulfilling role. Satisfied with my choices and achievements, I have put projects that allow me to do exactly that before the goal of finishing my degree. It is the opportunity to contribute that draws my interest.

University Council has a broad constituency, but it is rare to hear from those like me: a stalwart Queen's community member without a degree. I remain vitally interested in and committed to Queen's. With my candidacy, I offer you a chance to diversify your council and give representation to all others whose stories sound like mine.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

ALAN S. PRENDERGAST, Class of '90 Richmond Hill, ON, IT and Classroom Support Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto. After transferring to Queen's, I studied Economics. I was an orientation leader and also involved in the Science '44 Student Housing Co-op. After Queen's I worked for a defense contractor before starting at U of T in 2002 as a technician in the Physiology labs. Since that time, I have held a wide range of positions across campus including Libraries, Information Security, and a long stretch as Senior Network Administrator in UofT Central IT services, integrating administrative systems between the federated colleges. In 2022 I returned to my preferred role as IT support for the academic and administrative functions.

Prash Rasaiah

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

As a passionate advocate for education and community engagement, I am eager to join the University Council to contribute positively to the strategic direction and growth of our institution. With a strong belief in the transformative power of higher education, I am committed to ensuring that Queen's University continues to uphold its reputation as a leading academic institution.



During my term on the University Council, I aspire to leverage my diverse professional background, particularly my experience in digital commerce and strategic partnerships, to support initiatives that enhance student experiences, foster innovation, and strengthen community partnerships. I am particularly interested in exploring opportunities to enhance alumni engagement and support initiatives that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus.

Furthermore, I am keen to collaborate with fellow council members to address emerging challenges facing higher education, such as digital transformation and evolving student needs. By working together, I believe we can make meaningful strides towards advancing Queen's University's mission of excellence in teaching, research, and community service.

In summary, I am motivated to serve on the University Council to contribute my skills, expertise, and passion for education to help shape the future of Queen's University and ensure its continued success as a vibrant and inclusive learning community.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

PRASH RASAIHAH., MMIE'23 (Queen's), HBA'10 (U of T) Toronto, ON. Seasoned financial services/fin-tech leader with 15 years of experience at companies such as RBC, Mastercard, Cineplex and BMO. Notable past roles include Director, Digital Commerce RBC Royal Bank and Director, Market Product Management (Mastercard)). Active parent council member at Adam Beck Junior Public School (2023-Present). Former Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair at RBC Cards, Payments and Banking Group (2020-2021). Represented Smith at Vienna University's Global Innovation Management program (2023). Former Alumni Association Director and student mentor at University of Toronto (2016-2019). Holds a Master of Management Innovation and Entrepreneurship graduate

degree from Smith School of Business at Queen's University and an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto.

Sam Turgeon-Brabazon

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Hey There,

It's great to meet you. As an alumnus of Queen's University, you must be very busy making the world a better place. With this, I wish to sincerely thank you for all you do and for taking the time to review my Statement of Interest.



My name is Sam Turgeon-Brabazon and I am honoured to be submitting my candidacy to become a member of the Queen's University Council.

Ever since I was young, I have devoted my life to having a positive impact on my community. This began with a love of grassroots social activism and later evolved into a passion for working with governments while serving as a Page in the House of Commons. My formative years culminated in several noteworthy successes, including my: i) launching one of a few student-led municipal internship programs in Canada (with the City of Ottawa, while serving as the President of my B. Public Affairs and Policy Management Class), and ii) collaborating with Canadian and US officials to successfully advocate for the release of several academics who had been unjustly imprisoned for their academic research.

In the years that have followed, my passion for community involvement has been perennial, leading me to serve as Co-President of my M. Management Innovation and Entrepreneurship Class during my time as a graduate student at Queen's, and most recently as President of the Skills Ontario Alumni Association (Canada's largest annual skilled trades and technology competition).

If given the chance, it would be my heartfelt honour to contribute my aptitude for coalition building, public-private partnerships, fostering interdisciplinary collaborations, and championing alumni relations to add meaningful value to your experience as a Queen's alumni. I see myself being able to do this most effectively by working with you, my fellow alumni, and by being a loyal and proud voice to highlight the ideas, opportunities, and concerns that you would like raised at the Queen's University Council.

My sincere thanks in advance for your time and consideration.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

SAM S.D. TURGEON-BRABAZON, MMIE'23, BPAPM'19, Ottawa, ON, Founder and CEO – AudioBio. Capstone Project Advisor – M. Management Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program. Teaching Assistant – MBA, MMIE, and Commerce Programs. Former Co-President, M. Management Innovation and Entrepreneurship Class of 2023. Former Judge, Queen's Inter-Collegiate Business Competition (2023). Current Board Member, National Children's Botanical Garden of Canada and Current President, Skills Ontario Alumni Association.