

Alumni Association of Queen's University at Kingston
Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting of Alumni Assembly
Held virtually on Monday, June 23, 2025 from 1-2:30 pm

In attendance with voting rights:

Allison Williams, President, QUAA and Chair,
QUAA Board of Directors

Beau Sackey, Ghana Branch President
Carolyn Desrosiers, QUAA Director & Utah
Branch President

Cheryl Johnson, Brockville Branch President

Colin McLeod (Proxy for Ghazal Abdullah,
QUAA Director)

Dawood Tullah, SGPS President
Erin Polanski, University Councillor
George Jackson, Giving Society Representative
Julie Rentsch, QUAA Director & Portland
Branch President

Kahir Rahemtulla, QUAA Director
Leigh Kalin, AVP, Strategic Engagement
Lisa Hood (Proxy for Sarah Virani, QUAA
Director)
Michelle Fuko, CAO Advancement (Proxy for
Principal Deane)

Niki Boytchuk-Hale, Rector

Samarjeet Sing, Proxy for AMS President
Samantha Rodgers, QSAA President
Stacy Kelly, QUAA Director & Queer Chapter
President

Toby Thomas, QUAA Director
Tuba Chishti (Proxy for Galvin Niu, QUAA
Director)

Non-voting attendees:

Callum Linden, Multimedia Producer (Queen's Staff)
Dana Inkster, alumna
Gordon Floyd, alumnus
Lindsey Kull, Alumni Officer, Volunteer Liaison
(Queen's Staff)

Alumni Assembly Member Regrets:

*(*indicates voting rights held):*

Angela Xu, QUAA Director*
Akin Akinsipe, Calgary Branch President*
Bittu George, University Councillor*
Cheryl Carver, QUAA Director*
Ghazal Abdullah, QUAA Director – Proxy delegated
Diana Chang, Vancouver Branch President*
Don Christie, Reunion Representative*
Edmond Chan, Hong Kong Branch President*
Galvin Niu, QUAA Director – Proxy delegated
Geneviève Pagé, Montreal Branch President*
Jana Amer, AMS President – Proxy delegated
Kelly McKinley, QUAA Director*
Marc El Jichi, UAE Branch President*
Maynard Plant, Japan Branch President*
Nausheen Sadiq, Reunion Representative*
Patrick Deane, Principal (Proxy delegated)
Sarah Virani, QUAA Director – Proxy delegated
Simon Marmura Brown, QUAA Director*
Timothy Packulak, Kingston Branch President*

1. Opening Session

a. Welcome and Introductions

Allison Williams, ArtsSci'09, President of the Queen's University Alumni Association (QUAA), opened the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) by introducing them self and welcoming all attendees.

Allison introduced QSAA President Samantha Rogers to provide the Land Acknowledgement.

b. Land Acknowledgement

"To begin, we must acknowledge that Queen's University is situated on the traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee territory. We are grateful to be able to live, learn and play on these lands to acknowledge this territory is to recognize its history, one that predates the establishment of the earliest European colonies. It is also to honour the significance of this land for the indigenous peoples who have lived and continue to live here, and whose cultural and spiritual connection to the land remains strong and evolve. We each have a responsibility to educate ourselves about the histories of the lands we reside on, to understand the ongoing impacts of colonialism, and to take meaningful action, to support truth, reconciliation, and indigenous sovereignty."

Samantha acknowledged that she comes from Otelaw, also known as New Zealand, residing on the traditional lands of the Nata Furi.

Allison thanked Samantha for her remarks and provided background on the connection between the QUAA and the QSAA

c. Agenda Overview and Voting Procedures

Allison proceeded to outline the meeting agenda. She welcomed both voting and non-voting members of the QUAA and clarified voting eligibility. Allison noted that there are a few delegates attending this year's AGM including Michelle Fuko, Chief Advancement Officer, as the delegate for Principal Patrick Deane.

She reminded attendees that non-voting members are welcome to remain for the duration of the meeting and may ask questions throughout. Voting members were reminded that meeting materials had been circulated in advance. For formal motions, members were asked to raise their hands (virtually or on screen) to identify as movers and seconders, followed by a vote (in favor, against, or abstaining).

Allison opened the floor for questions. None were raised.

Motion to Approve the 2025 AGM Agenda**Motion Proposed:** Approval of the 2025 QUAA AGM Agenda**Moved by:** Tuba Chishti**Seconded by:** Stacy Kelly**Result:** Approved unanimously**Carried****Motion to Approve the 2024 QUAA AGM Meeting Minutes**

Allison opened the floor for questions. None were raised.

Motion Proposed: Approval of the 2024 QUAA AGM Minutes**Moved by:** Allison Thistlewood**Seconded by:** George Jackson**Result:** Approved unanimously**Carried**

2. QUAA President's Report

Appendix B: QUAA President's Report

Presentation of the QUAA President's Report

Allison Williams, QUAA President, opened the President's Report with a reminder of the QUAA Mission "To reach out and foster a lifelong association with Queen's, to engage our members in the life and work of the university, and to serve the alumni community in all its diversity". Allison emphasized that the QUAA Board's work continues to be grounded in its mission, and reminded attendees of the importance of the role alumni and alumni volunteers play as advocates, partners, and donors; fostering relationships that can in turn enhance the university's profile and reputation. She also took this moment to thank attendees for joining, having an interest in the university and the work of the Alumni Association, and all of the various ways that Assembly members and alumni support Queen's.

Year one of a New Board Structure

Allison reminded attendees that the pre-read materials included the President's Report and a fulsome update on the first year under the new QUAA Board Structure providing the following highlights:

The QUAA Board has adjusted from having directors with individual portfolios to a committee structure and has begun operating under this new structure successfully. Allison provided a reminder of the names and a brief description of each of the committees:

- **Operations Committee** is an internally focused committee that supports Board structure and governance.
- **Alumni Giving Committee** creates awareness and encourages philanthropy among our Board, Assembly and the broader alumni community.
- **Alumni Engagement Committee** supports and increases engagement of alumni and those in various constituency groups
- **Alumni Recruitment and Recognition Committee** which recruits volunteers to Alumni Assembly and supports the QUAA Gala Awards program.

Allison highlighted that one of the benefits of the adjustment to this new structure is that the QUAA Board's working committees welcome non board members onto our committees for the first time in an effort to make the Board more accessible, inclusive, and increasing capacity by having more volunteers. Allison encouraged those in attendance to consider this opportunity to ask questions or reach out for more information.

Congratulations to our 2025 QUAA Gala Award Recipients

Allison acknowledged the success of the QUAA Gala Awards, held June 19, 2025. She also acknowledged the diversity and range of accomplishments of the 2025 award recipients.

Alumni Global Citizenship Award, **Laura Tamblyn Watts, Artsci'94**

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, **David McDowell, Artsci/PHE'86, Ed'87**

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigenization Alumni Award, **Edward Thomas Sc'06, MAsc'12**

Herbert J. Hamilton Volunteer Service Award, **Colin McLeod Artsci'10**

Initiative of the Year Award, **Bachelor of Art Education/Bachelor of Fine Art 55th Alumni Reunion**

Marsha Lampman Volunteer Award, **Kristine Robinson Com'15 and Susanne Gage Artsci'92**

One to Watch Award, **Daria Juüdi-Hope BNSc'11, MPH'20**

Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award, **Jill Barber Artsci'02**

Outstanding Student Leader Award, **Daniel Reddy PhD Candidate**

QSAA Volunteer of Distinction, **Aliza Tiwana**

Global Alumni Network and Engagement

Allison shared that the QUAA Board has been working closely with the Queen's Advancement and the Alumni Strategy team over the past year. As we all look to continue to strategically, meaningfully engage alumni from across the globe and provided a snapshot of the Queen's Global Alumni Network.

Data reported was provided June 2025 by Queen's Alumni Strategy Unit

- 230,433 Queen's alumni
- 159 countries in which Queen's alumni live around the world
- Over 4,454 Alumni Volunteers
- 38 Alumni Branches*
- 4 Alumni Chapters

Note* 10 Identified branches have not been active in the past year or more and are currently under review.

Allison noted within the context of the alumni network and numbers shared that the QUAA Board had also been working with Queen's Advancement to think consider ways to mobilize our alumni network for the benefit of Queen's; testing a model of support through Queens Micro Summits, in Palo Alto, Calgary, Vancouver, and Toronto.

Allison made the ask to Alumni Assembly to support Queen's as ambassadors and by generating excitement for the research and the work that's happening at the university by sharing some of this information and content with their networks:

Included in the Chat**Watch each Queen's Micro Summit below:**

Palo Alto, California: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6TFA6owVhI>

Toronto, ON: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxtZ0CLpDrU>

Vancouver, BC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SlA6HXaiB8Y>

Calgary, AB: <https://youtu.be/Ph56MHZi6Po?si=pW9szXO8QcxvbjlJ>

Beyond Micro Summits Allison shared a few notable events.

Ali Velshi: Small Acts of Courage**A Night of Wonder: Queen's Toronto alumni at Cirque du Soleil****Ottawa Cha Gheill - Transforming health care through innovation and collaboration**

Allison introduced QUAA Director, Toby Thomas to provide an update on Philanthropy and Giving.

*Noting Toby's connection to the call was inconsistent Allison stepped in to finish presenting

Philanthropy and Giving

Allison provided a brief update on funding of alumni and student activities noting in 2024-25 the QUAA Board of Directors disbursed \$6,900 from the Iris Marsh Alumni Expansion Endowment Fund and \$5,000 from the QUAA Projects Trust Fund to directly support alumni and student activities.

Recipients of this funding:

- Queen's Genetically Engineered Machine Team
- Queen's Medical Brigades
- Queen's University International Student Chapter of the American Chemical Society
- ReseNeX
- TEDxQueensU
- Queen's Model Parliament
- BFA/BAE 55th Reunion Art Exhibition

Allison shared that the QUAA Board, having achieved 100% participation in annual giving for over 15 years also made the decision as a Board to support Giving Tuesday with a \$5000 donation as a matching incentive to our alumni community. The matching donation was fully realized through donor support. Donations supported the Queen's Fund for this initiative.

Allison closed the President's Report with a motion to approve

Motion to Approve the 2025 QUAA President's Report

Allison opened the floor for questions. None were raised.

Motion Proposed: Approval of the 2025 President's Report

Moved by: Stacy Kelly

Seconded by: Simarjeet Sing

Result: Approved unanimously

Carried

3. QUAA Financial Reports

Appendix C: QUAA Financial Reports

Overview of Funds

Allison invited QUAA Director, Toby Thomas to present the financial report, noting that the QUAA Board oversees several funds, with detailed information shared in the pre-read documents.

Iris May Marsh Alumni Expansion Endowment Fund

Toby Presented the 2024-25 Alumni Association Grant Cycle by the numbers and reminded Assembly that the Iris May Marsh Alumni Expansion Endowment Fund supports the Alumni Association Grants Program, providing funding to initiatives led by student and alumni groups.

2024-25 Alumni Association Grant Cycle by the numbers

- 25 complete applications reviewed by selection committee
- 17 incomplete applications not reviewed by selection committee
- 80+% were first time applicants
- Virtually all applications were from Student-led initiatives
- Limited number of applications from alumni applicants
- Alumni Giving Committee partnered with the Queen's Student Alumni Association (QSAA) to provide a virtual information session for students

5 recipients supported by the Iris Marsh Alumni Expansion Fund (\$6,900)

1 additional recipient supported by QUAA Projects Trust Fund (\$2000)

**Noting Toby's connection to the call was inconsistent Allison stepped in to finish presenting*

Allison shared that the QUAA Board and Alumni Association Grant Selection Committee were pleased with the process and number of applications received.

An addition to this year's application and selection process included a student information session supported by the QSAA and an Assembly information session run through one of the Assembly Quarterly virtual events providing student and alumni groups with additional information and an opportunity to ask questions about the grant application cycle.

Alumni Excellence in Teaching Award Endowment Fund

While still reported through the QUAA, oversight of this fund and award has transitioned to the Principal's Office, with QUAA Board participation continuing through the Principal's Teaching and Learning Awards Selection Committee. QUAA Board member Simon Marmura Brown participated on this selection committee.

Allison reported the 2025 Recipients

- **Dr. Monakshi Sawhney** - Associate Professor, School of Nursing
- **Dr. Sara Nabil**, Assistant Professor in the School of Computing and the head of the HCI Design Studio

Noting that the flow through of funding for these award recipients is continuing as part of the administration process of transitioning this award to the Principal's Teaching and Learning Awards.

QUAA Special Projects Fund

Allison shared that this fund provides the Board with flexibility to support initiatives aligned with the QUAA's mission. It is funded by donations, often from QUAA Board members, though all alumni are encouraged to contribute.

2024-25 Funded Initiatives:

- One additional Alumni Association Grant was funded through this account
- BFA/BAE 55th Reunion - Art Exhibition
- Donations in honour and in memory
- Matching Gift for Giving Tuesday

Allison reported the reminder that the approved transfer listed in the QUAA Projects fund is intended for the one-time use following the original purpose of the of the F. MacRae Speaker's Endowment Fund, to bring a woman speaker back to campus. This will be carried out by the QUAA Board.

Allison closed the presentation of the Financial Report inviting any questions. None were raised

Motion to Approve Financial Report

Motion: That the QUAA Financial Report be accepted and entered into the official record of the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

Moved by: Lisa Hood

Seconded by: Simarjeet Singh

Result: Approved unanimously

Carried

[4. Introduction of the 2025-26 QUAA Board of Directors](#)

Appendix D: 2025-26 QUAA Board of Directors

Acknowledgment of Outgoing and Incoming Alumni Assembly Members

Allison extended thanks to all members of Alumni Assembly for their work and support to Queen's and the QUAA with a special acknowledgement to the outgoing and incoming members of Alumni Assembly.

Outgoing Student Leadership

Emils Matiss, President SGPS

Owen Rocchi, President AMS

Welcome to New Alumni Assembly Members

Branches

Allison Thistlewood, London UK

Student Leadership

Dawood Tullah, President SGPS

Jana Amer, President AMS

Overview of the 2024–2026 QUAA Board of Directors

Allison re-introduced the 2024–26 QUAA Board of Directors noting there are no changes in membership this year.

Allison Williams, Artsci '09 – President and Chair of the Board of Directors

Angela Xu, Com '22 – Director

Carolyn Desrosiers, Artsci '06 – Director

Cheryl Carver, MIR '89 – Director

Galvin Niu, Sc '19 – Director

Ghazal Abdullah, MIB '23 – Director

Julie Nixon Rentsch, Com '99 – Director

Kahir Rahemtulla, Sc '17 – Director

Kelly McKinley, Artsci '91 – Director

Sarah Virani, Artsci '11 – Director

Simon Marmura Brown, MA '18 – Director

Stacy Kelly, Artsci '93 – Director

Toby Thomas, Sc '85 – Director

Ex-Officio: Leigh Kalin, Artsci '92, Associate Vice Principal (Strategic Engagement)

Ratification of the QUAA President

Not required this year.

Allison noted this as her last year as QUAA President with the application and selection cycle will beginning shortly for the next QUAA President.

Allison encouraged anyone with questions about joining the Board or the President's role to reach out.

5. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Allison opened the floor for any additional business to be raised. None was raised.

Allison provided thanks to everyone for joining with a special thanks to:

- Samantha Rogers for providing today's Land Acknowledgement
- Lindsey Kull and Callum Linden, staff partners, for their assistance in preparing and running the 2025 AGM.

Motion to Adjourn:

Moved by: Julie Nixon Rentsch

Seconded by: Samantha Rogers

Result: Meeting adjourned unanimously