

Alumni Association of Queen's University at Kingston
Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting of Alumni Assembly
Held virtually on November 26, 2024, noon – 1:00PM (EST)

In attendance:

(* indicates voting member of Assembly):

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

*Angela Xu, QUAA Director

*Akin Akinsipe, Calgary Branch President

*Carolyn Desrosiers, QUAA Director & Utah
Branch President

*Cheryl Carver, QUAA Director

*Cheryl Johnson, Brockville Branch President

Colin McLeod, QUAA Past President

*Diana Chang, Vancouver Branch President

*Don Christie, Reunion Representative

*Emils Matiss, SGPS President

*Erin Polanski, University Councillor

*Galvin Niu, QUAA Director, Young Alumni

*George Jackson, Giving Society Representative

*Ghazal Abdullah, QUAA Director

Jacklyn Lewis

*Julie Rentsch, QUAA Director & Portland
Branch President

*Kahir Rahemtulla, QUAA Director

*Kelly McKinley, QUAA Director

*Leigh Kalin, AVP, Alumni Relations & Annual
Giving

Lindsey Kull, Alumni Officer, Volunteer Liaison

*Marc El Jichi, UAE Branch President

*Michelle Fuko, CAO Advancement (Delegate
for Principal Deane)

*Nausheen Sadiq, Reunion
Representative

*Owen Rocchi, AMS President

Sarah Blayney Lew, Administrative Assistant to
the AVP, Alumni Relations & Annual Giving

*Sarah Virani, QUAA Director

*Samantha Rodgers, QSAA President

*Simon Marmura Brown, QUAA Director

*Stacy Kelly, QUAA Director & Queer Chapter
President

*Toby Thomas, QUAA Director

Regrets:

*Beau Sackey, Ghana Branch President

*Bittu George, University Councillor

*Edmond Chan, Hong Kong Branch President

*Geneviève Pagé, Montreal Branch President

*Maynard Plant, Japan Branch President

*Niki Boytchuk-Hale, Rector

Patrick Deane, Principal (Michelle Fuko sent as
delegate)

*Timothy Packulak, Kingston Branch President



1. Opening Session

a. Welcome and Introductions

Allison Williams, Artsci'09, President of the Queen's University Alumni Association (QUAA), opened the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) by welcoming all attendees. She introduced herself and expressed enthusiasm for co-hosting the meeting with Past QUAA President Colin McLeod.

Allison acknowledged that the 2024 AGM is being held later than usual and assured attendees that updates would be provided throughout the meeting to explain the delay and maintain transparency with Alumni Assembly members.

She then invited Colin McLeod to deliver the Land Acknowledgement.

b. Land Acknowledgement and Tribute

Colin McLeod expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the AGM and emphasized the importance of intentional and respectful territorial acknowledgements. He referred attendees to the presentation slide, which read:

"To be meaningful and respectful, a territorial acknowledgement needs to be intentional. This is a time to give thanks, consider our individual and collective role in the stewardship of Mother Earth and in building relationships between Indigenous people and communities and the rest of the country."

Colin delivered a Land Acknowledgement from Minneapolis, Minnesota, recognizing it as the traditional territory of the Dakota and Ojibwe Peoples.

He also took a moment to honor the recent passing of The Honourable Murray Sinclair, the 15th Chancellor of Queen's University. Colin highlighted Chancellor Sinclair's profound contributions to Indigenous advocacy, equity, and inclusion, both at Queen's and across Canada. He encouraged attendees to read the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and to engage with Queen's initiatives supporting Truth and Reconciliation.

c. Agenda Overview and Voting Procedures

Allison thanked Colin for his remarks and proceeded to outline the meeting agenda. She welcomed both voting and non-voting members of the QUAA and clarified voting eligibility. Voting members of the Alumni Assembly include:

- QUAA Board of Directors and Executive Committee
- Branch Presidents and Branch Delegates
- Representatives from University Council and Senate
- Representatives from AMS, SGPS, QSAA, and Varsity Council
- Assembly Members-at-Large
- The Principal of Queen's University or a delegate

Allison noted that Michelle Fuko, Chief Advancement Officer, was attending 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. 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).

2. QUAA President's Report

Appendix B: QUAA President's Report

Presentation of the Report

Allison Williams, QUAA President, opened the report by welcoming the involvement of Past President Colin McLeod, who would co-present key elements of the report, particularly those related to his final term.

Allison emphasized that the QUAA Board's work continues to be grounded in its mission. A major focus for 2023–24 was the revamp of the Board's structure and activities, aimed at better aligning with the evolving needs of the alumni community.

She then invited Colin to begin the presentation.

Reflections on Board Restructuring

Colin shared that the past year was centered on reimagining the Board's structure post-pandemic, recognizing that the existing model no longer fully met the needs of alumni or reflected trends in volunteer engagement. He highlighted the extensive consultations and iterations of the Constitution and Bylaws, with a focus on equity, inclusion, and flexibility.

Key structural changes included:

- Elimination of the Executive Leadership Team to flatten the hierarchy.
- Unified Director Roles: All directors now share the same title and responsibilities, with the option to engage in one or more Board committees. This encourages collaboration, skill development, and broader participation.

- Committee Participation: Alumni Assembly members and staff partners are now invited to sit on QUAA Board committees.
- Alumni Volunteer Summit (AVS): Language was updated to allow for more flexible and globally inclusive programming.
- Creation of a QUAA Board Equity Representative: This new role, held by Lindsey Kull, Alumni Officer, Volunteer Liaison, ensures equity remains a core focus.
- Elimination of the Leadership Development Committee: This change supports a more open and equitable recruitment process for Board positions.

Colin noted that these changes led to a significant increase in applications for the 2024–26 Board, reflecting a more inclusive and competitive selection process.

Looking Ahead

Allison resumed the report to speak about the future direction of the QUAA. She noted that the new Board has struck four key committees:

1. Recruitment and Recognition
2. Alumni Engagement
3. Alumni Giving
4. Board Operations

While acknowledging some delays in process due to onboarding and planning, Allison expressed optimism about the Board's momentum and encouraged Assembly members to consider joining a committee.

She highlighted the continued strength of the global alumni network, supported by Branches and Chapters. A slide was presented showing the network's reach. The Alumni Engagement Committee is now working with the Global Alumni Strategy Team to explore ways to amplify this network's impact.

Allison shared that the new Board recently held its first in-person retreat, which fostered a strong sense of optimism and potential.

Alumni Awards and Global Events

Colin returned to highlight the 2024 Alumni Gala Award Recipients, describing them as a testament to the vibrant and impactful Queen's alumni community. He encouraged members to consider nominating deserving individuals for future awards.

He also celebrated the global footprint of alumni events, citing recent gatherings in London (UK), New York, Kingston, Boston, Hong Kong, and various Homecoming celebrations around the world.

Philanthropy and Giving

Colin proudly shared that this marks the 14th consecutive year of 100% participation in annual giving by the QUAA Board of Directors. He emphasized the importance of philanthropy, especially during challenging times in the post-secondary sector, and encouraged members to explore giving opportunities via the Give to Queen's website.

Allison added that Giving Tuesday efforts are underway, in collaboration with the Alumni Giving Committee and Annual Giving staff partners. She also noted that 2026 will mark the 100th anniversary of the QUAA, originally established at the first Queen's Homecoming. This milestone reinforces the Board's historic and ongoing role in supporting philanthropy at Queen's.

Motion to Approve the Report

Allison opened the floor for questions. None were raised.

Motion: That the QUAA President's Report be approved and entered into the official record of the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

Moved by: Stacy Kelly

Seconded by: Kelly McKinley

Result: Approved unanimously

Carried

3. QUAA Financial Reports

Appendix C: QUAA Financial Reports

Overview of Funds

Allison Williams, QUAA President, presented the financial report, noting that the QUAA Board oversees several funds, including both endowed (interest-bearing) and non-endowed funds. She began by reviewing each fund and its purpose.

Iris May Marsh Alumni Expansion Endowment Fund

This endowed fund supports the Alumni Association Grants Program, which funds initiatives led by student and alumni groups.

- 2024–25 Grant Cycle: The application cycle has been delayed to allow the onboarding of the 2024–26 Board and to continue a review—initiated by the 2022–24 Board—focused on improving transparency and equity in the application and selection process. The cycle is expected to open in early 2025.
- 2023–24 Grant Recipients included:
 - Youth for Consent Culture: Funded video equipment to promote consent awareness in athletics.
 - CompanionLink: Supported student volunteers providing companionship to seniors in Kingston.
 - Student Space Experiment: Mission 18: Enabled a student to present a Queen's-built experiment at a space competition.
 - Queen's Feminist Leadership in Politics: Supported their annual conference.

- Toronto Alumni Branch: Hosted an event for alumni over 50, featuring Queen's staff discussing global strategy.

Available Funds for 2024–25: Just over \$6,000 will be available for disbursement. The Alumni Giving Committee will oversee the finalization of the updated grant process.

Alumni Excellence in Teaching Award Endowment Fund

While still reported through the QUAA, oversight of this fund and award is transitioning to the Principal's Office, with QUAA Board participation continuing through the Principal's Teaching and Learning Awards Selection Committee.

QUAA Special Projects Fund

This non-endowed fund, established approximately 15 years ago, 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.

2023–24 Funded Initiatives:

- Road to Graduation: A program educating students about becoming alumni, including support for Summerhill Sendoff celebrations.
- Mile In Their Shoes: A program fostering alumni understanding of Truth and Reconciliation. Allison shared her personal experience with the program and encouraged others to participate.

Florence MacRea Speakers Endowment Fund

Established in 1981 through a \$500 bequest, this fund was intended to bring alumnae speakers to Queen's. However, due to limited interest accumulation, it became administratively burdensome and unsustainable for annual use.

- Recent Use: Supported a Toronto Branch and Queer Alumni Chapter event featuring Justice Gloria Epstein.
- Final Decision: The fund has been un-endowed, and a one-time grant will be issued under its original purpose to bring an alumna speaker to Queen's, using the fund's closing value.

Motion to Approve Financial Report

Allison invited questions—none were raised.

Motion: That the QUAA Financial Report be accepted and entered into the official record of the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

Moved by: Galvin Niu

Seconded by: Diana Chang

Result: Approved unanimously

Carried

4. Introduction of the 2022–2023 QUAA Board of Directors

Appendix D: 2022–2023 QUAA Board of Directors

Acknowledgment of Outgoing Board Members

Allison invited Colin to extend thanks to the outgoing members of the QUAA Board of Directors.

Colin noted that 2023–24 saw an unusually high turnover of Board members and expressed deep appreciation for the dedication and service of the outgoing Directors. He emphasized their significant contributions, particularly to the Board Reimagined Project, and invited a virtual round of applause in their honor. Colin offered thanks to the outgoing Board and Assembly volunteers.

Outgoing QUAA Board Members:

- Lisa Hood – Executive Vice President, Recruitment and Recognition
- Jackie Lewis – Executive Vice President, Operations
- Tuba Chishti – Director, Alumni Volunteer Summit
- Megan Divecha – Director, Marketing and Communications
- Alisha Hobson – Director, Digital Media
- Tka Pinnock – Director, Alumni Constituency Groups
- Julia Reid – Director, Reunion
- Lea Trotman – Director, Special Projects
- Theresa Wetzel – Director, Global Branch Networks
- Elain Wu – Director, Alumni Awards

Colin acknowledged that many of these individuals served multiple terms and helped shape the Board's current direction.

Acknowledgment of Outgoing Alumni Assembly Members

Allison extended thanks to the following outgoing Alumni Assembly members, including several long-standing contributors:

- Elke Beecken – Germany Branch
- Elena Christopoulos – Southern California Branch President
- Suzanne Gage – Toronto Alumni Branch
- Kimberly Molina – Ottawa Branch President
- Gaetano Raffaele – Queer Alumni Chapter
- Lauren Winkler – Indigenous Alumni Chapter
- Bruce Miller – Reunion Representative
- Heather Black – University Council
- Miles Brackenbury – Varsity Leadership Council
- Owen Crawford-Lem – Rector
- Tatiana Grandmaitre – QSAA President

- Beth Langdon – SGPS President
- Kate McCuaig – AMS President

Introduction of the 2024–2026 QUAA Board of Directors

Allison introduced the incoming 2024–26 QUAA Board of Directors, highlighting new members with an asterisk (*).

- 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*
- Leigh Kalin, Artsci '92 – Ex-Officio, Associate VP (Strategic Engagement)

Ratification of the QUAA President

As required by the Alumni Assembly, Allison called for a motion to ratify her position as QUAA President.

Moved by: Carolyn Desrosiers

Seconded by: Ghazal Abdullah

Result: Ratification approved unanimously

5. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Allison asked if there was any additional business to be raised. None was raised.

She then took a moment to thank:

- Colin McLeod for his leadership and support as Past President.
- Lindsey Kull and Sarah Blayney-Lew, staff partners, for their assistance in preparing and running the 2024 AGM.

Motion to Adjourn:

Moved by: Kelly McKinley

Seconded by: Diana Chang

Result: Meeting adjourned unanimously