



Get to know University Councillor Bittu George, Arts'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 and deputy mayor of Kingston. Member, City of Kingston Planning Committee. Director and Vice President, Kingston General Hospital Foundation. Director, University Hospitals Kingston Foundation. Director, Kingston Economic Development Corporation. Director and Secretary, Kingston Technology Exchange Centre (Queen's-Kingston partnership). President,

Alumni Association - Kingston Branch. Director and Third Vice-Chair (Secretary), Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce. Director and President, Friends of the Penitentiary Museum. Vice President, 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. Current term: 2024

1. Why did you select Queen's University?

Queen's University has an excellent reputation as a top-class post-secondary institution, with many alumni in prominent positions and offices in Canada and around the world. This was important to me, especially since I was the first person in my family to attend university. I have a particular interest in politics, and I knew that Queen's had well known faculty in the Political Studies Department like John Meisel and C.E.S. Franks. Being a born-and-raised Kingstonian, I grew up in the shadow of Queen's University, so I already had some familiarity with the University and the campus. Attending Queen's would also allow me to be close to home, which has its advantages, especially during exam time!

2. Most memorable moment as a student?

Aside from seeing the joy in my parents' faces when I graduated, my most memorable moment was when I was prime minister in Queen's Model Parliament during my final year of undergraduate study. It was challenging enough to win 2 elections against other Queen's students for the role (first as party leader, then winning the leaders' debate). But to also have the model parliament in the House of Commons in Ottawa, with the actual House of Commons staff (clerks, security, pages, interpreters, etc.) working AND to have the proceedings broadcast live across the country, that was really special! A lot of family and friends contacted my parents and I to say that they saw me live on CPAC!

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

Find your passion, and figure out how to get paid for it. If you love your job, you will never work a day in your life!

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

I'm most proud of my career as a municipal politician. I was very happy to surprise my parents with my election to Kingston City Council. Given the discrimination my parents faced, they thought it would not be possible for me (or any person of colour) to be elected to Kingston City Council. I was happy to prove them wrong! I was also humbled to be elected as deputy mayor by my fellow city councillors in a contested election. A close second would be the fact that I kept my cool during my years as an adjudicator with the Ontario Landlord and Tenant Board. Sometimes people don't like the rulings you make, so having a calm disposition comes in handy!

5. How do you spend your free time?

Not sure if I can say that I have 'free time'. Aside from work, I keep myself busy volunteering with various community groups and causes. I'm also involved in competitive sports like volleyball, soccer or curling (sans COVID-19 pandemic). What free time I have would be spent reading, watching a movie, computer gaming, building model planes or playing the veena, an Indian musical instrument.

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

Many of my alumni friends had suggested that I be a candidate for University Council over the years. Also, my term as co-chair of SOARB had recently ended, and I was looking for a way to stay involved with Queen's. So, the call for nominations for University Council this year was perfectly timed for me.

7. Your aspirations for being on University Council?

I have three main goals for my time on University Council: Continue to improve town-gown relations; Work to facilitate major advances for equity, diversity, inclusion and indigeneity; Contribute my skills and experience in the area of proper board governance, accountability, transparency, and representation of alumni views and ideas.

8. Anything else you would like to add/highlight?

Cha Gheill!

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