

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Executive Committee

The Executive Committee recently approved appointments to the 2026 Program Committee and received the final report of the 2025 Program Committee for information.

Executive Committee: Patrick Deane (Chair), Doug Bruce (Vice-Chair), Chancellor Shelagh Rogers, Heather Black, Mary Drinkwater, Letitia Golubitsky, Chessa Joep, Yanique Williams

### Nominating Committee

#### Elections to the Board of Trustees by the Council

##### **AVAILABLE TERMS • Two, three-year terms (June 2026-29)**

- Council Trustees Heather Black and Yanique Williams terms on the Board will end as of May 31, 2026. (\*Note: Both are eligible for re-election to the Board).
- There are three candidates for the two available positions (alpha order by last name):
  - Black, Heather
  - Bruce, Doug
  - Yanique Williams
- **An online election will be held from February 11-18, 2026.**
- **All Councillors will receive an email with details on how to vote.**
- Council Trustees continuing on the Board are Samantha Cheung, Jeremy Gooden, Alison Holt, and Chessa Joep.

#### **2026 UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ELECTION:**

##### **Available Positions (10 total)**

- 10 positions: Four-year term (Sept. 1, 2026, to Aug. 31, 2030)

The following Councillors will reach the end of their terms as of August 31, 2026. All are eligible for re-election, should they choose to run again.

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| • Armitage, John       | • Romu, Saara   |
| • Christopoulos, Elena | • Shen, Frannie |
| • Hbranchuk, Kieva     | • Singh, Amrita |
| • Joep, Chessa         | • Smith, Susan  |
| • Polansky, Erin       | • Wu, Elaine    |

##### **Process:**

March 17-31, 2026 – Call for nominations

- All Queen's alumni are eligible to nominate fellow alumni to run for election to the University Council.
- Candidates must be nominated by at least two (2) alumni
- Nominations must be submitted online by Tuesday, March 31 at 4 pm ET
- All Councillors will receive an email when the nominations period is open and are encouraged to amplify this process within their respective networks and nominate fellow alum

- An online election will be held from May 13-27 to select the ten new, or returning, Councillors

On behalf of your Nominating Committee: Elaine Wu (Chair), John Armitage, Alexander Lam, Irene Mukasa, Colby Pereira

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### [Program Committee](#)

The Executive Committee recently approved the following appointments to the 2026 Program Committee:

- Black, Heather (Council Trustee, 1 year term)
- Golubitsky, Letitia (Executive Committee member, 2 year term)
- Polson, Chris (elected Councillor, 2 year term) *\*new member*
- White, Alexi (elected Councillor, 2 year term) *\*new member*
- Zhang, Susan (elected Councillor, 2 year term) *\*new member*

The [Program Committee](#) sets the strategic direction and priorities for the annual meeting of the Council. This includes planning the Council Orientation (June), Virtual AGM (October 13), and in-person Retreat (November 13-14). The committee will select the 2026 Chair at their next meeting. The Committee will meet for their first planning session on February 12.

Questions? Contact [ucouncil@queensu.ca](mailto:ucouncil@queensu.ca)

On behalf of your Program Committee: Yinka Adegbusi, John Armitage, Leo Bailey, Heather Black, Letitia Golubitsky Colby Pereira, Chris Polson, Alexi White, Susan Zhang

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**Governance Updates:** As an advisory body, the University Council participates in Queen's governance processes along with the Board of Trustees and the Senate. Councillors can stay informed of recent governance activity at the University by reviewing open session materials from both the Board of Trustees and the Senate on the [Governance Portal](#).

- **[Board/Council Trustees](#):** The next regular Open Session of the **Board of Trustees** meeting will be held on March 6 (meeting dates can be found on Board [website](#)). You can check out the Board agenda/minutes on the [Governance Portal](#). To attend the Board's Open Session, please submit your request in advance to the [Secretariat](#).

University Council Trustees: Heather Black, Samantha Cheung, Jeremy Gooden, Alison Holt, Chessa Jope, Yanique Williams.

- **[Senate](#):** The next Senate meeting will be held on Feb 26 **at 2:30 pm** (meeting dates can be found on the [Senate website](#)). You can review the Senate agenda/minutes on the [Governance Portal](#). To attend any portion of the meeting, please submit your request in advance to the [Secretariat's Office](#).



**Honorary Degrees:** Councillors are requested to consider submitting nominations of worthy individuals for an honorary degree. Nominations are open for degrees to be awarded in 2027 and the deadline is February 27, 2026. Information can be found on the [Secretariat's website](#).

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### [Queen's University Alumni Association \(QUAA\)](#) President Update

Greetings from snowy, cold Toronto! I hope that those of you who are also weathering a harsh winter are faring okay, and that those of you in warmer and sunnier climes – well, lucky you 😊!

**QUAA Board Director Hiring:** The QUAA Board is currently seeking four new directors to serve a two-year term beginning May 1, 2026. If you know any alumni who have an interest in fostering alumni connection and community, highlighting and celebrating alumni achievement, encouraging a culture of philanthropy, and supporting and mentoring students, please encourage them to consider applying. [Applications are available on our web page](#) and close February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

The Board is a group of highly engaged, caring, compassionate and fun alumni. We look forward to welcoming new members! We also thank our outgoing Directors, Sarah Virani, Kahir Rahemtulla, Sc'17, Ghazal Abdullah, MIB'23, and Simon Marmura Brown, MA'18 and PhD'24.

**Assembly Quarterly:** We are in the midst of planning our third Alumni Assembly quarterly in March. The last session was very well received, as we hosted Ruth Dunley from the Queen' Alumni Review to talk with us about sharing alumni stories. The next session will be hosted by Queen's Student Alumni Association President, Samantha Rogers, and will include some student voices.

**2025-2026 QUAA Grants:** The QUAA grants for 2025-2026 have been awarded. The QUAA is supporting the following initiatives/organizations: 1) Alumni Networking Summit – Engineering Society of Queen's University; 2) [aQuatonomous](#) design team; 3) Kingston Canadian Film Festival; 4) [Project Smile Kingston](#); 5) [Queen's Kaleidoscope](#); 6) [Queen's Sustainability Conference](#) ;and 7) [Social Issues Commission](#), Indigenous Initiatives Lead

These seven initiatives run the gamut int terms of fora (summits to conferences), content (scientific to community support to artistic), alumni / student / community engagement (direct mentoring to full participation), communities (Queen's/Kingston to Legislators to Faculties to Alumni), EDII focus (content to support), and impact (hundreds to thousands impacted). The committee remarked that all seven applications were well prepared, had compelling applications, and were ready for immediate implementation.

**Reminder to make your Annual gifts:** As we enter February, we also enter the last quarter of the year until Queen's fiscal year end. We are therefore in the process of reminding our Directors to make their annual gift – so we can keep our 100% participation streak going! We also invite councillors to please consider [making a gift to Queen's](#), if they have not already this year.

Thank you and hope to see you soon!



[Allison P. Williams](#), Artsci'09, President and Chair, QUAA Board of Directors

QUAA Assembly Members [appointed by the University Council](#): Bittu George and Erin Polansky

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Councillors represent University Council and Queen's University by attending, participating in, and/or promoting various events. Please check the [Alumni Events calendar](#) for a list of all upcoming alumni events (including branch, reunion, etc.). Consider participating and/or learn more to share with your alumni networks.

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**February – Black Histories and Futures Month**



February is [Black Histories and Futures Month](#), an opportunity for us to reflect on the experiences and acknowledge the accomplishments of our Black community members. It is important to note, teaching and learning about Black history in addition to recognizing Black communities is not constrained to the month of February. This can be done throughout the year. Check out the [history and 2026 Events](#) (visit often for updates). For more information, please contact the [Office of the Vice-Principal \(Culture, Equity, and Inclusion\)](#).

### February 7 – Carr-Harris Cup



Join us as Queen's defends their title in the [world's oldest hockey](#) rivalry! The [Queen's](#) Gaels-[Royal Military College](#) (RMC) Paladins rivalry dates back to a game on Kingston Harbour in 1886. The Carr-Harris Cup, officially established in 1986, also recognizes the legacy of the Carr-Harris family, who have had several family members attend both Queen's and RMC to play hockey.

Puck Drops at 7:30 pm at the Slush Puppie Place. Tickets can be purchased for \$15 each or \$45 for a pack of four at the [Slush Puppie Place Box Office](#), or at the [Queen's University Athletics & Recreation Centre](#)

### February 11 - UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science



Queen's will recognize the [United Nations' International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#) by encouraging the campus community to share their passion for STEM by sharing their research contributions on Twitter and tagging [@queensuResearch](#). Please recognize and share these contributions.

### Winter 2026 Elder Talks



Elder Talk sessions are an opportunity to learn from our Cultural Advisor Te ho wis kwūnt - Allen Doxtator. Al originates from Oneida Nation of the Thames and is a member of the Bear Clan and explore Indigenous worldviews, with a safe space to ask questions after each session. Join

Indigenous Initiatives bi-weekly on Thursdays (**12:00 to 1:00 pm**) for virtual Elder Talk sessions.

[Register today](#) for the following sessions:

- Thursday February 12, 2026: Open Session/Question Period
- Thursday February 26, 2026: TBD
- Thursday March 12, 2026: TBD
- Thursday March 26, 2026: "Inclusion" with Special Guest, Patrick Deane, Principal and Vice-Chancellor
- Thursday April 9, 2026: Open Session/Question Period
- Thursday April 23, 2026: TBD
- Thursday May 7, 2026: Open Session/Question Period

### February 15 – National Flag of Canada Day



At the stroke of noon on February 15, 1965, Canada's red and white maple leaf flag was raised for the very first time on Parliament Hill. On the same day in 1996, [National Flag of Canada Day was declared](#). Alumnus [John Matheson](#), Arts'40, LLD'84, was an influential figure in the development of national symbols such as the Canadian flag and the Order of Canada.

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**February 17-20 – Family Day (observed holiday)**, followed by Mid-term Reading Week (all classes cancelled, except Education and Medicine)

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**February 23 – Deadline for nominations for the Principal's Teaching and Learning Awards**



The [Principal's Teaching and Learning Awards](#) celebrate teaching excellence and the diverse ways in which educators and educational support professionals enhance the student learning experience at Queen's. The awards increase trans-disciplinary exposure to exemplars in teaching with a focus on the university's strategic goals and the UN SDGs at the course level, as well as through individual and group efforts outside of specific courses, at the program or university-level. [Nominations are now open](#). The deadline for submitting nominations is **February 23, 2026**. See how to submit a nomination. Email [principal.awards@queensu.ca](mailto:principal.awards@queensu.ca) with any questions about the awards and grants.

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**March 16-20 – GRADflix Judges needed**



[GRADflix](#) is a unique opportunity for students to present their research in a multi-media format, using any type of video (examples include animation, stop motion, or video recordings) within a 60-second time limit. We will **need judges** for the event, and we'd like to call on alumni to consider this volunteer opportunity. The judging will be done online with links to the videos provided, so this an excellent opportunity for volunteers both in

Kingston and elsewhere. Judges are provided with a rubric for the areas of assessment: communication, creativity, and technical quality. The aim of GRADflix is to train students and postdocs on how to present their research to a non-specialist audience, so judges do not need any specialized knowledge themselves.

Week of March 16-20, 2026,

- Graduate students present their research in a maximum 60-second video format
  - Judges evaluate presenters on communication, creativity, and technical quality
  - Typically, 5-10 students provide entries
  - Last year's entries can be viewed [here](#)
  - Email Matthew Snell ([sgspa.events@queensu.ca](mailto:sgspa.events@queensu.ca)) to volunteer.
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**March 25 (5:00-6:30 pm, Kinesiology 101) - Three-Minute Thesis Final Judges needed**



The School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs will once again be hosting the [3MT \(Three-Minute Thesis\)](#) competition, a showcase for students to explain their research in a strict time limit.

We need judges for the event, and we'd like to call on alumni to **consider this volunteer opportunity**. Judges are provided with a rubric for the areas of assessment: communication, comprehension, and engagement. The aim of 3MT is to train students and postdocs on how to present their research to a non-specialist audience, so judges do not need any specialized knowledge themselves. You can view the 2025 finalists' presentations [here](#). Depending on the number of participants, the event will run 60 – 90 minutes. Last year's winner, Dilakshan Srikanthan, went on to win the People's Choice award at the NAGS 3MT, 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Matariki 3MT, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the 2025 National 3MT Showcase.

March 25 (5:00-6:30 pm, Kinesiology 101) - Three-Minute Thesis Final

- Graduate students present their research in 3 minutes or less using 1 static slide
- Judges evaluate presenters on communication, comprehension, and engagement
- Typically, 8-12 presenters for the final

- Overall winner receives a cash prize and represents Queen's at provincial competition
- Email Matthew Snell ([sgspa.events@queensu.ca](mailto:sgspa.events@queensu.ca)) to volunteer.

## LEARN AND SHARE

### Build Connections. Make an Impact. **Join a QUAA Board Committee**



Queen's University  
Alumni Association  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Are you looking to deepen your engagement and give back in an additional volunteer capacity? The QUAA Board of Directors invites University Councillors and other non-Board alumni to volunteer on its working committees. This is a meaningful opportunity to complement

your role as a University Councillor by contributing your time, skills, and perspective to strengthening the alumni community, while supporting the work of the QUAA Board in collaboration with the Office of Advancement and the University.

The QUAA Board's working committees include:

- Alumni Giving Committee
- Alumni Outreach and Volunteer Engagement Committee
- Alumni Recognition Committee

Co-chaired by QUAA Directors, these committees lead and support initiatives such as Alumni Association Grants programming, QUAA Awards, and support for QUAA Branches and Alumni Assembly, among other projects.

Committees meet virtually approximately every 4–6 weeks, with most meetings held Monday to Friday from 12:00–1:00 p.m. (ET). Regular attendance and active participation are essential to advancing committee initiatives and achieving meaningful outcomes.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to be considered for a committee, please contact the QUAA Board at [quaa.board@queensu.ca](mailto:quaa.board@queensu.ca) to express your interest.

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### Become a Ban Righ Souper Hero!



BAN RIGH CENTRE

At the Ban Righ Centre, the daily, free soup lunch program offers more than just a meal. It creates a warm, welcoming space where mature women students gather to share nourishment, offer encouragement, and build friendships.

That's where you come in. **Souperheroes** know that real nourishment comes not just from what's in the bowl, but from the warmth of community shared around it.

With your support, they can keep the pots simmering and the conversations flowing. Join in celebrating the power of food, friendship, and belonging. Every donation, big or small, makes a meaningful difference:

- **\$50** fills the pot for a day's worth of soup
- **\$250** supports a week of lunches for students
- **\$1000** sustains our program for a month

[Give Now](#)

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### QSAA Volunteer Recognition Program:

Each week a [QSAA](#) student volunteer who has gone above and beyond will be provided with an opportunity for personal development by connecting with Alumni. Students will be provided with bios for University Councillors and the QUAA Board members and will select alumni whose faculty, work or experience

interests them for a virtual coffee chat. Lindsey Kull will reach out to confirm interest/availability of alumni and then proceed to e-introduce the student to confirmed alumni. QSAA has 14 volunteers this year and they plan to nominate 1-2 per week. If you have any questions, please contact [lindsey.kull@queensu.ca](mailto:lindsey.kull@queensu.ca)

### Queen's University Spring Convocation:



Interested in **volunteering** to welcome our newest graduates to the alumni community at Spring Convocation ceremonies? You will be asked to sit on stage and hand an alumni pin to each graduand. Simple, but so meaningful. Please reach out to [Jessie Mercer](#), Alumni Relations with questions.

- **Grant Hall:** Thursday, May 21 to Friday, May 22 2026  
*Four ceremonies total: 2 per day, 10:00am and 2:30pm start.*
- **Slush Puppie Place:** Monday, June 22 to Friday, June 26 2026  
*Ten ceremonies: 2 per day, 10:00am and 3:00pm start*

### COUNCILLOR SPOTLIGHT

- Please ensure you [update](#) your contact information (mail, email, phone) to stay informed about Queen's.
- Get to know your fellow Councillor members by visiting their [biographical sketches](#) and submitting/reading profiles. Please contact [ucouncil@queensu.ca](mailto:ucouncil@queensu.ca) to complete your online profile.
- Learn more about how you can [support Queen's University](#).
- If you have exciting personal or professional news you would like to share through your monthly newsletter, please send us details to [ucouncil@queensu.ca](mailto:ucouncil@queensu.ca). In addition, [please share](#) your participation with University activities to record the impact of Council.



Councillor **Don McNamee** has been busy! He recently collaborated with Queen's [Faculty of Education](#)

- Thursday, November 27th, 2025, he participated in a Panel discussion with BEd students as part of a Careers Panel.
- Thursday December 4th, 2025, he gave a lecture to a class of 50 BEd students as part of their course on being an Educator Abroad.
- He supported the [Singapore Alumni branch](#) with a grant application in November 2025 in hopes that they get the funding that supports Queen's activities in the city state.
- And, he is looking to collaborate with the [Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam](#), in Ho Chi Minh City, to investigate activities to invite Queen's Alumni together through their channel.



Congratulations to Councillor **David Pick** on his [King's Counsel \(K.C.\)](#) appointment!

This prestigious designation recognizes lawyers with exceptional legal skills, dedication to the legal profession and community contributions.



Councillor **Chris Polson** with Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP has received Lexpert recognition - Arbitration Expert Witness 2026 and Commercial Litigation Expert Witness 2025!

[Lexpert](#) is Canada's leading source of news and information about the best lawyers, law firms and the business of law.

## STUDENT LIFE

The Board of Trustees is one of three governing bodies of the university, along with the [Senate](#) and the [University Council](#), all of which are administered by the University Secretariat. The [Board of Trustees](#) is responsible for the overall operations of the University, including:

- overseeing financial matters
- property
- the appointment of Vice-Principals
- and, in conjunction with the Senate, the appointment of the Principal.

The Board of Trustees has 25 [members](#): 3 ex-officio and 22 elected (including 6 Council Trustees).

### Meet the two representatives elected by Students:



**Undergrad Trustee: EJ Kelvin** (She/Her) is a Concurrent Education student at Queen's University, pursuing a degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. As the elected Undergraduate Trustee, she is committed to advocating for transparency, community, and student support throughout her term. Passionate about shaping youth into future leaders, EJ previously served as a student trustee for ALCDSB (23/24) and is currently the Chief Operating Officer of OSTA-AECO and an intern to the Queen's Rector. She is honored to serve on the Board and looks forward to learning from everyone. Elected by the Undergraduate Students – current term to 2027.



**Graduate Trustee: Emils Matiss** is a Queen's PhD student at the Centre for Neuroscience Studies and a collaborative, community-driven leader. He served as President of the Society of Graduate and Professional Students (2024–25), chaired the Board-Senate Advisory Committee in 2023, and was the Graduate Student Senator from 2021 to 2024. In 2024, he received the Margaret Hooey Governance Award for his contributions to university governance. Emils also serves as Treasurer/CFO on the Board of the Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto, where he supports the Centre's long-term financial planning and oversight of a \$1M budget. He values diverse perspectives and consensus-building in complex decision-making. Elected by the Graduate Students - term to 2027.

## [Queen's University](#) links to keep you informed

Councillors are expected to subscribe, review, and share Queen's publications and social media to remain knowledgeable about resources, services, and benefits offered to alumni through the Alumni Association.

[Principal](#)  
[Queen's Strategic Goals](#)  
[QUAA](#)  
[Rector](#)  
[Alma Mater Society](#)  
[SGPS](#)  
[QSAA](#)

[Queen's Alumni Review](#)  
[Queen's Gazette](#)  
[Queen's Quarterly](#)  
[Event Calendar](#)  
[Inclusive Queen's](#)  
[Queen's Encyclopedia](#)  
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AND LEGAL COUNSEL

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