

GOVERNANCE UPDATES

[Executive Committee](#)

The Committee met June 10. Alexi White, Chair of the 2026 Program Committee, attended the meeting to present the 2026 Council AGM and Retreat agendas, which were approved. Please refer to the Program Committee update below for additional details.

In addition, the Committee selected the recipients of the 2026 Distinguished Service Award recipients as follows.

- Peter Chin
- Te ho wis kwûnt, Clinton Allen Doxtator
- Bruce E. Elliott, PhD'74
- Beverly Lapham
- Robert McFarlane, Com'83
- Lynnette Purda
- Daniel Tisch BA'91, MBA'96
- Stephen Vanner, Artsci'78, MA'81, Meds'83

Save the Date: Councillors are encouraged to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of these recipients at a ceremony held during the Retreat on the evening of November 13 at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts.

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

[Nominating Committee](#)

[Welcome to newly elected University Councillors](#), whose 4-year terms will start September 1, 2026.

Call for Expressions of Interest in Council's Committees: A call for expressions of interest will be circulated to all Councillors in July. Please watch for the email with additional information on how to join one of [Council's standing committees](#).

As the following Councillors' terms come to an end on August 31, it is with sincerest gratitude that we would like to thank them for their service on the University Council. Since 1874, Queen's alumni have served in this capacity for the continued prosperity and welfare of the University, and these Councillors have joined those leaders as valued ambassadors and advisors to the University. (*Listed in alphabetical order*)

- John Armitage
- Elena Christopoulos
- Kieva Hrachuk
- Erin Polansky
- Saara Romu
- Frannie Shen
- Amrita Singh
- Susan Smith

To those noted above: please know that your dedication to Queen's is incredibly valued. We look forward to seeing you at university events and encourage you to stay in touch. If you would like to explore other volunteer opportunities or ways to stay connected to the university, please do not hesitate to contact [Lindsey Kull](#), Alumni Relations Volunteer Liaison. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to your alma mater; it is alumni efforts like this that sets Queen's apart from other universities.



Elaine Wu, Chair, Nominating Committee

On behalf of your Nominating Committee: John Armitage, Doug Bruce, Alexander Lam, Irene Mukasa, Colby Pereira

[Program Committee](#)

AGM/RETREAT:	Date:	Time (EST)	Location:
Virtual AGM	Tuesday, October 13	11:30 am -1:00 pm	Virtual
Retreat	Friday, November 13	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Donald Gordon Centre, Room B
Distinguished Service Awards (DSA)	Friday, November 13	5:30 pm -7:30 pm	The Isabel
Retreat	Saturday, November 14	8:30 am -1:00 pm	Mitchell Hall

Planning for the University Council Retreat:

- **Theme: The Bicentennial Vision and Student Leadership.** Councillors are encouraged to review the [Bicentennial Vision](#) in advance of the Retreat.
- **Registration** details will be sent in early fall but save the dates above in your calendar.
- **Travel:** Councillors are responsible for coordinating and booking their own travel arrangements. The University Council is a volunteer organization and, as such, Councillors are expected to incur their own participation expenses. Councillors are eligible to donate their participation expenses back to the University, for which an official receipt is issued for tax purposes. Councillors who do not believe they can meet these expectations are encouraged to raise their concerns with the [Secretary](#) of the University Council.
- **Accommodation: BOOK EARLY TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM**

Donald Gordon Centre Room Reservation Procedure: The group block will be held until (October 30, 2026) 14-day cut-off. After this date, any remaining guestrooms in the block will revert to the hotel for general sale. Reservations received after this date will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis.

Call the main reservation line at 613-533-2221 x 0 to reserve under the group rooms block. You will need to provide the **group reservation #142974** to be linked to the group at the preferred rate. (Guests cannot book online using the special group code.)

Group Rates:

\$165.00 plus applicable tax per night – Single occupancy standard queen room

\$190.00 plus applicable tax per night – Double occupancy standard queen room

Accommodation includes 1 queen size bed, full bath, Wi-Fi, parking, and hot breakfast. (Guests can book other room types based on availability, subject to rate change)

Reservation Details:

- Check-In time is 3:00pm. Guests arriving early will be accommodated, as rooms become available.

- Checkout time is 11:00am.
- All guests are required to provide a valid credit card and government issued ID that have matching names
- A credit card is required for a personal incidental deposit. The amount held is \$50 per day. Any personal incidentals incurred during the stay will be proceeded with the card on file. The deposit releases at time of check-out and can take up to 7-business days to reflect depending on the guests banking institute.
- Full payment will be taken at time of check-in
- Pets are not permitted. Service animals only with valid certificate
- Hot breakfast is included during your stay
- Surface level parking is available on a first-come first-served basis

Contact ucouncil@queensu.ca for more information.



Alexi White, Chair, Program Committee

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

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 October 2 (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, Doug Bruce, Samantha Cheung, Jeremy Gooden, Alison Holt, Chessa Jope.

- **Senate:** The next Senate meeting will be held on September 24 at 2:30 pm, if required (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](#).



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

Greetings Councillors,

Happy Summer! I hope you are all enjoying a little extra time outside in the sunshine, with people you love, doing things you enjoy.

QUAA Awards Gala and QUAA Board Retreat: I'm pleased to report the QUAA hosted another successful Awards Gala in Toronto at the beginning of June. There were lots of laughs, a few tears, and an Oil Thigh to top it all off (thanks to Rector Niki for helping to start it off)! As always, thank you to the University Councillors who made it out to help celebrate this year's slate of recipients, which included Councillor Elaine Wu!

The next day, the QUAA Board had a very successful retreat. Our Board spent the morning doing a refresher on the activities on Advancement and a review of Advancement strategic priorities, and then in the afternoon we met with Mammoth for one of their branding focus groups. Our Board looks forward to reconvening our committees soon to begin working on our goals and deliverables for the coming year.

Summerhill Send-off: Our Kingston-based Board members are volunteering for the **Summerhill Send-Off** this month. For the uninitiated, following Convocation ceremonies, graduates are invited to Summerhill to learn more about the QUAA, connect with fellow graduates, take photos, and enjoy a variety of activities and opportunities to celebrate their transition into the alumni community.

Thank you to any Councillors who might also be stopping by Summerhill for the send-off, or for volunteering to pin our new grads at Convocation ceremonies to welcome them into the QUAA (one of my all-time favourite volunteer opportunities – sad to miss out this year).

Homecoming Registration: Homecoming Registration is officially open! I encourage you all to consider joining us in Kingston October 16-18, 2026. It's an official reunion year for classes ending in 6 and 1, but there are many ways to celebrate and connect with fellow alumni in Kingston, even if it is not an official reunion year for you. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering for Homecoming, please don't hesitate to reach out to volunteer@queensu.ca.

Homecoming at 100 and Homecoming at Home: Even if you can't make it back to Kingston I encourage you to review [the Homecoming 100 web page](#) to learn a bit more about some of the special initiatives to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Homecoming, like the featured articles, and some planned Branch activities, appropriately called "Homecoming at Home."

Thank you and "See you Later, Terri!"

It is my sincere hope that as Terri Flindall reads this last update on behalf of the QUAA before her retirement, she remembers that after a well-deserved little break, we will want her to come out to some alumni events. Thank you, Terri for your years of support to the QUAA, over multiple roles at Queen's. We will certainly miss you – but know this is just a "see you later" moment! Have a good rest!

And to all of my fellow Councillors, enjoy the summer!



[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 – Be an Ambassador!

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.



July 1 – [Welcome to Wim Van der Stede, appointed Dean, Smith School of Business](#) for a five-year term.



July 1 – [Principal Deane appoints Kevin Kee to the role of Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science](#) for a five-year term.



July 1 – [Matthew Evans, Provost and Vice-Principal \(Academic\) appoints Lynnette Purda to a new portfolio as Vice-Provost, Professional and Continuing Education](#) for a five-year term.

July 16 (1:00-2:00 pm) – (virtual) Conversation Café: Community-Engaged Research, Teaching and Learning

When universities engage with communities, they create dynamic spaces for shared learning, impactful research, and mutual growth. Join our drop-in session to learn more, ask questions, and connect with others committed to meaningful community collaboration in teaching, research and learning. Co-hosts: [Dr. Michelle Searle](#) and [Dr. Reshma Nuri](#). All are welcome! Please [register](#) for the event. Or, [join](#) the mailing list to hear about future options.

July 16 (12-1 pm) – Elder Talk Summer Sessions



OFFICE OF
INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES

Elder Talk sessions are an opportunity to learn from our Cultural Advisor Te ho wis kwûnt - Allen Doxtator. Al originates from Oneida Nation of the Thames and is a member of the Bear Clan and explores Indigenous worldviews, with a safe space to ask questions after each session. All are welcome to attend. Please share this invitation widely among your units and networks. To register

Please fill out the [Summer 2026 Elder Talk Registration](#),

- Thursday, July 16, 2026: Working Through Fear
 - Thursday, August 27, 2026: Planting and Harvesting
-

Orientation –



[Fall Orientation](#) is a combination of [University Orientation](#) and [Faculty Orientation](#) programming. Both aspects of Fall Orientation are designed to support student transition to the University, connect them with other students, and prepare them for the school year ahead. In addition, there is [Graduate Orientation](#), [International Student Orientation](#), and a [Welcome Day for Indigenous Students](#). **Reach out** to your [Faculty](#) to investigate options for you to welcome new students.

September 1 - Fall Term begins

October 16-18, 2026



2026 marks the 100th year since the first Reunion Weekend took place at Queen's. This year we celebrate 100 years since that first weekend with [Homecoming 100](#).

This is a milestone reunion for classes ending in 1 and 6, and for Tricolour Guard (alumni celebrating having graduated 50 years ago, or more). All alumni are welcome to attend festivities on campus during Homecoming weekend. Mark your calendars and make sure to book [accommodations](#) early and [register](#) by October 1.

You can look forward to:

- [Reunions, receptions, and research showcases](#)
- [The Homecoming football game vs. Guelph](#)
- [The alumni parade to Richardson Stadium](#)
- [The Fall Harvest Alumni Gathering](#)



What does Queen's mean to you?

As we celebrate Homecoming 100, share the moments that made Queen's part of your story. The people you met. The places you remember. The traditions that stayed with you. Your story may be featured as part of Homecoming 100. [Share your story](#)

LEARN AND SHARE

Consultation process announced for college proposal

A new college model would be designed to facilitate interdisciplinary teaching and research at Queen's. To support understanding of how the new college would be structured and operate, the university is holding a broader consultation process over the next several months. For more information, please read the [Gazette article](#). Alumni are invited to [share feedback](#) on the proposed model through an [online form](#).

THE ISABEL



**ISABEL BADER CENTRE
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

Do you love the arts? Consider joining the team [at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts](#) as a casual usher, box office assistant, or [volunteer](#)!

The Isabel will be hiring casual positions to begin September 2026. Applications open the end of July for the following roles:

- **Front of House:** Providing outstanding customer service to our audience members in roles including usher, coat check attendant, greeter, or runner (paid staff and volunteers).
- **Box Office:** Handling ticket sales at events and performances as the first point of contact for our audience and subscribers.

Watch for position postings here <https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/about-isabel/employment-and-volunteer>. Immerse yourself in amazing events and performances at the Isabel! And don't forget to share this opportunity with your Queen's networks. Please follow on [social media](#) for updates or for additional details, call 613-533-2424.

[Smith Business Insight](#)

Smith Business Insight is Smith School of Business' knowledge mobilization platform, filled with cutting-edge research, commentary and advice from Smith's world-renowned faculty and industry experts.

[Articles](#), [interviews](#), [papers](#), [videos](#), [webinars](#) and podcasts cover every aspect of business, from analytics and AI, to digital transformation, social impact, sustainable finance, entrepreneurship, leadership, workplace teams, innovation and more

[Subscribe](#) to their newsletter to receive provoking insights, perspectives and ideas on the ever-changing world around us, directly to your inbox.

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 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. In addition, [please share](#) your participation with University activities to record the impact of Council.



[Mercer](#) for opportunities at fall convocation.

At June Convocation, Doug Bruce, Mary Drinkwater, and Jennifer McMaster volunteered as “pinners” at Convocation. This role includes wearing a hood/gown to be part of the procession, sitting on stage, presenting each graduate with their alumni pin, and being introduced for a short address to welcome graduates to the alumni community! If this sounds interesting, contact [Jessie](#)

STUDENT LIFE



[Pro Bono Students Canada \(PBSC\) at Queen's](#) offers a number of community placement projects, where law students provide free legal services to local organizations. By participating with PBSC, law students develop their legal skills and increase access to

justice. The program reflects the legal needs of community organization in Kingston and the surrounding area.

Member Exchange is the [Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce](#) digital webinar series that spotlights the expertise of Kingston Chamber members while sharing practical knowledge and insights with the broader business community. [In this episode](#), presented by Queen's Law and Pro Bono Students Canada, you will gain practical insights into cybersecurity and privacy to help protect your business and customer data.

Queen's earns a shoutout on Drake's new album



support independent student journalism.

[Read the Journal article](#) outlining how Drake singlehandedly lifted Queen's student spirits. And check out the Queen's Rector Niki Boytchuk Hale [Instagram](#) post. [Subscribe](#) to the Queen's Journal to receive Campus Catch-up. [Advertise](#) and consider [donating](#) to help

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](#)
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[Queen's Alumni Review](#)
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Questions: contact
ucouncil@queensu.ca