



University Council November 2022 Newsletter

Council Updates

Committee Updates

Executive Committee

At the October 6 meeting, the Committee endorsed a proposal to shift, streamline and simplify the various Council committee term start dates. This proposal will provide newly elected Councillors an opportunity to join committees the year they begin on Council. No changes to the Council By-laws are required. This proposal will be implemented in 2023 and more information will be circulated to Councillors in the new year.

Nominating Committee:

The election of two University Councillors to the Board of Trustees will be held in January 2023. Two positions for elected Councillors will be available on the Board of Trustees (three-year terms, beginning June 1, 2023). A call for nominations will be issued to Councillors on November 28. Additional details, including desired competencies identified by the Board, will be included in the call for nominations email.

For additional info, please contact ucouncil@queensu.ca



Elaine Wu, Artsci'98, MIR'00, Law'03
Chair, Nominating Committee

On behalf of your Nominating Committee: Heather Black, Sc'80, Judith Brown, Artsci'70, Samantha Cheung, Sc'92, and Mary Drinkwater, Ed'78, MPA'08

Program Committee:

Thank you for your active participation in the **147th Council AGM**. Please complete the [post event survey](#) so we have your feedback. The committee will be reviewing the breakout group and survey feedback to make recommendations for continuing education and AGM programming for next year. All feedback is important and welcome. If you have any additional comments, please email ucouncil@queensu.ca.



Mary Dodd, Com'84
Chair, Program Committee

On behalf of your Program Committee: Noyelum Anoliefo, MMIE'20, John Armitage, BSC'71, Richard Baugh, MBA'14, Heather Black, Sc'80, Mary Drinkwater, Ed'78, MPA'08, Willa Henry, BNSc'76, Tka Pinnock, Artsci'07

Board / Council Trustees:

The next regular Open Session of the **Board of Trustees** meeting will be held on **December 9** (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 trustees@queensu.ca.

Senate:

Meeting dates can be found on the [Senate website](#). The next regular meeting will be held on November 29. You can check out the Senate agenda/minutes on the [Governance Portal](#). To attend any portion of the meeting, please submit your request in advance to senate@queensu.ca.



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 2024 and the deadline is March 1, 2023. Information can be found on the [Secretariat's website](#).

Meet A Councillor

COUNCILLOR: CHessa JOPE, COMM'09, LLM'19



Why did you select Queen's University?

I wanted to go to the best business school in Canada. The history, tradition and school spirit I experienced during a campus tour made the decision to attend Queen's even easier.

What is your most memorable moment as a student?

There are too many moments to pick just one, so I'll say that I really treasure the lifelong friends I made while at Queen's.

Can you tell us a little about your career?

After graduating, I obtained my CA designation with PwC Toronto and a Master of Laws in Business Law from Osgoode. Through progressively senior finance roles in the mining and energy industries, I've worked with companies across Canada and globally. As a Finance Director with Ontario Power Generation (OPG), my responsibilities include oversight of OPG's financial disclosure obligations, advising on key technical accounting matters for business issues across the organization and evaluating or influencing the introduction of new requirements or changing regulations. I am also currently Vice Chair of Electricity Canada's Finance & Accounting Committee.

What is the best career advice you've ever received?

Start before you're ready. And, don't underestimate the value of being someone who is easy to work with.

What are your aspirations for being on University Council?

Firstly, to help alumni feel more connected with Queen's. Support efforts to increase financial access to post-secondary education and efforts to ensure an inclusive and diverse student experience at the university. Share my network, financial expertise, and corporate governance experience to advance the initiatives and goals of the school.

Connect with Councillor [Chessa Jope on LinkedIn](#).

COUNCILLOR: COLIN McLEOD, Artsci'10



Why did you select Queen's University?

I was debating between attending Queen's, McGill and Western, and the factor that led to me picking Queen's was the stunning campus. On university tours with my parents, Queen's was our last stop and I didn't think I'd be choosing it. But I remember walking around campus on a beautiful spring day, and it all just clicked for me. Grant Hall, Summerhill, the shimmer off Lake Ontario. It felt like home and where I wanted to be. The rest is history!

What is your most memorable moment as a student?

My most memorable moment as a student was the 2009 Vanier Cup in Quebec City, where the Queen's football team came back to beat Calgary. The weekend had all you could ask for – poutine, tailgating with Gilles Duceppe, and an epic second half comeback. This followed an impressive run of wins in Kingston that absolutely electrified campus.

Can you tell us a little about your career?

After I completed my Master's degree, I joined the Canadian federal public service, and have been fortunate to work on a wide range of files, including international climate change negotiations, economic sanctions and as Chief of Staff to the head of Canada's foreign, trade and development strategy policy. I'm currently a Canadian diplomat serving as the head of the political/economic section at the Canadian Consulate General in Minneapolis, covering Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska.

What is the career highlight you're most proud of?

Being able to represent Canada internationally has been the honour of a lifetime. I've been fortunate to have experiences negotiating on Canada's behalf for climate change negotiations, and now as a diplomat posted abroad, I get to represent Canada on a daily basis in the U.S. The pride of being able to represent Canada doesn't get old, and this career path is linked all the way back to when I was a student at Queen's taking fourth year Political Studies seminars taught by retired Canadian Ambassadors. I give Queen's a lot of credit for influencing where I am today.

How do you spend your free time?

I'm grateful to have moved abroad as a diplomat with my wife Laura (ArtSci '10, MPA '11) and dog, Alfie (Basic Puppy Obedience '14), so have been spending lots of time exploring the US and the wonderful state parks in Minnesota. I'm also a fairly committed (read: obsessed) long distance runner, training for my first Boston Marathon in 2023.

Anything else you would like to add/highlight?

I would just encourage people to get involved in any way you can – whether it be attending events, volunteering, or attending a reunion, the Queen's alumni community will be stronger because of your engagement.

Connect with Councillor [Colin McLeod on LinkedIn](#).

Get to know more about your fellow Council Members by visiting the [Biographical Sketches](#) page of the website.

Councillor Spotlights

Erin Polansky, Artsci'95 – Shares her experience at her first Queen's Convocation



“This year I had the honour and privilege to represent the alumni at two Queen’s Convocation ceremonies. It was a thrill for me since I had never attended one before—not even my own. So, I did not know what to expect.

The Convocations took place in Grant Hall, a grand old hall with a pipe organ. You could imagine ceremonies taking place here for generations. The stage was set up with three thrones in the centre and a podium on each side. As a student in 1994, I felt very small and intimidated. As an adult and alumna, the Hall was still intimidating and imposing, but this time I felt like I belonged there—I was wearing my Master’s hood for the first time since receiving it—and I was there to put the students at ease.

We received our instructions and lined up to process into the Hall. I was walking in front of Principal Deane, whom I had only met by email in the past. Together with the Interfaith Chaplain Erin Burns, we commiserated over the lack of pockets in our academic robes. It was nice to have some normal conversation with someone who would soon be sitting on a throne!

After a beautiful rendition of God Save the King, Principal Deane welcomed everyone, and the ceremony was underway. The ceremony is very scripted and official—appropriately so. At this ceremony, there were speeches by the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, the Rector and the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic). Unfortunately, Chancellor Sinclair was unable to attend due to illness, so everyone stepped up a rank. I was especially moved on both days that I attended, by the words shared by the recipients of the honorary doctorates, *honoris causa*. Recipient Alexis Puentes, a multiple Latin Grammy, Grammy and Juno winning singer-songwriter, producer and musician spoke about growing up in Cuba and playing guitar with his father’s band as a young child. He spoke about how his life was guided by love and he encouraged the graduates to couple their knowledge with their love and passion. Recipient Helen Humphreys, a multiple award-winning author, former Poet Laureate for the City of Kingston, and former writer in residence at several universities including Queen’s, spoke about how life is like a sonnet. She taught us that a sonnet starts out in one direction and then abruptly changes course. She encouraged the students to embrace those course changes, and to view them poetically.

When it came time for the graduates to walk across the stage, my job was to present them their alumni pin and welcome them to the alumni community. They weren’t aware that this was part of the process, as I was not introduced and nothing was said about an alumni representative, so some of them tried to pass me by entirely! But I stuck out my hand, shook theirs and said, “Congratulations and welcome to the Alumni Association,” handing them their pin in the process. Most of them said a quick thank you and exited the stage. But notably, a few took the pin, and

genuinely smiled and thanked me, realizing that they had just been welcomed to a prestigious and exclusive club.”

Thank you to Councillors Willa Henry, BNSc'76 and Erin Polansky, Artsci'95 for volunteering to be a part of welcoming Queen's newest alumni at the 2022 Fall Convocation ceremonies.

If you have supported students or alumni of Queen's, through additional volunteer efforts we would love to share your story. Please reach out to [Lindsey Kull](#), Alumni Officer, Volunteer Liaison to share your involvement.

News & Events

QUAA Alumni Gala Award Nominations Open



The 2023 Alumni Gala Award nominations are now open! The QUAA is excited to announce a new award, **Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award**, for the 2023 award cycle. This award recognizes mid-career alumni, normally less than 30 years from an undergraduate or graduate program who is making significant contributions in their field of endeavour, setting an example for future alumni to follow.

Please visit the Gala Awards on the [Alumni Awards and Fellowships](#) page to view the full slate of awards or nominate a deserving alumna/alumnus before closing on December 12, 2022.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to [Lindsey Kull](#), Alumni Officer, Volunteer Liaison.

Elder Meet and Greet



The Office of Indigenous Initiatives has planned Elder Meet & Greets for the remainder of the Fall 2022 Semester. Please find the list of dates and topics below and [register online](#) to attend.

All sessions will take place on Thursdays on Zoom from noon -1 pm.

- November 10th – Treaties Today and Tomorrow
 - November 24th – True Meaning of Reconciliation
 - December 1st – Two Row Wampum
 - December 15th – Indigenous Winter Ceremonies
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Opportunities

QSAA Letters of Encouragement to First-Year Students



#queensu2023 #queensalumni

You made it here, you will
make it through exams!
You are awesome!

Chris Sci '94

The QSAA is reviving the QSAA First-Year Support Letter program and hope you are interested in providing words of encouragement to students going into their first set of exams. Below are the letter guidelines for your **submission requested by November 18**. Your message will be scanned into a document similar to the image above.

Please submit your response through this [survey link](#).

If you have questions before November 18, please feel free to connect with [Ben Seewald](#) or [Lindsey Kull](#) directly.

LETTER GUIDELINES:

- Support letters will be delivered to first-year students at the end of November 2022, before the fall term exam period. The letters should provide words of encouragement to help first years feel confident that they will make it through the stressful exam season and should also promote the supportive alumni network available to students.
- Do:
 - Include your First Name and Degree/Year (eg. Ben, Artsci'02 or Samara, Politics 2022)
 - Offer words of encouragement
 - Discuss examples of self-care and healthy ways to manage stress
 - Be inclusive. Remember this letter could go to any student in first year, regardless of program, interest, or background

- Highlight the best parts of your Queen's experience
 - Please do not:
 - Include your last name or identifying factors. The goal of these letters is to be approachable and anonymous.
 - Talk about dangerous behaviour, substance use, unhealthy stress management, or party culture.
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QSAA Mentorship Program



The QSAA Mentoring program is looking for alumni mentors from all years and faculties with the goal of creating meaningful and long-lasting professional and personal relationships between current Queen's students and alumnus. Allowing for exceptional growth opportunities for both the mentor and mentee, meetings would be online or in person.

The program will run from January – April 2023, and you and your mentee will be provided with a Mentorship Agreement, Handbook, and suggestions for how to get the most out of your mentorship relationship.

As a mentor, you can expect students who are looking to take the next step in their professional and personal lives and looking for guidance from someone who has been in a similar position. Mentees are excited to ask questions, learn, and listen. They most likely will have questions about your career, your time at Queen's, applying your degree, and many other things!

Please connect with [Ben Seewald](#) directly at if you have any questions or would like to volunteer for this opportunity.

Queen's Links to Keep You Informed

- [Queen's Gazette](#)
- [Queen's Alumni Review](#)
- [Queen's Quarterly](#)
- [Queen's Law Reports](#)
- [Smith Magazine](#)
- [The Complete Engineer](#)
- [Inclusive Queen's](#)
- [Viewbooks](#)
- [Queen's Encyclopedia](#)
- [Queen's Strategic Goals](#)



Queen's University

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