



## University Council May 2023 Newsletter

### Council Updates

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#### Committee Updates

##### Executive Committee:

Nominations for the 2023 Distinguished Service Awards closed on April 28. The Executive Committee will review all nominations received, and will then meet in June to select up to six recipients for this year's honours.

Please stay tuned for an announcement in June regarding the 2023 recipients!

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##### Nominating Committee:

The Call for Nominations for the 2023 University Council election closed on April 7. Over 30 complete nominations were received and all nominees have been asked to complete the online candidate's form. The election will open on May 16 and close May 30. Please watch for your email with instructions on how to vote and ensure you cast your ballot in this important election.



Samantha Cheung, Sc'92  
**Chair, Nominating Committee**

On behalf of your Nominating Committee: Heather Black, Sc'80, Judith Brown, Artsci'70, Samantha Cheung, Sc'92, Mary Drinkwater, Ed'78, MPA'08 and Elaine Wu, Artsci'98, MIR'00, Law'03

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##### Program Committee:

The Program Committee will meet in May and begin discussing themes and planning for the AGM in November 2023.



**Tka Pinnock, Artsci'07**  
**Chair, Program Committee**

On behalf of your Program Committee: Nonyelum Anoliefo, MMIE'20, John Armitage, BSC'71, Heather Black, Sc'80, Samantha Cheung, Sc'92, Mary Dodd, Com'84, Willa Henry, BNSc'76, Chessa Jope, Com'09, Sari Ohsada, BSc'19,

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### **Special Purpose Committee:**

The Special Purpose Committee on Annual General Meeting Schedule has met twice since it was struck in March 2023. One item under discussion includes the University Council's current Annual General Meeting timing as it relates to accessibility for a diverse group of potential Councillors.

SPC members: Heather Black, Sc'80, John Armitage, BSC'71, Sandra Kwon and Erin Polansky

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### **Board / Council Trustees:**

The next regular Open Session of the **Board of Trustees** meeting will be held on **May 12** (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](mailto:trustees@queensu.ca).

**Your University Council Trustees:** Heather Black, Sc'80, Doug Bruce, BSc(Eng)'85, Jeremy Gooden, BSc(Eng.) '16, Alison Holt, BAH'87, Mary Wilson Trider, Com'82, Marcus Wong, Artsci'03

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## **Meet A Councillor**

### **COUNCILLOR: NIROSHA BALAKUMAR, ARTSCI'19**



#### **Tell us a little about your current career.**

I currently work at McMaster University in the Department of Family Medicine as the EDI & Anti-Racism Partner. In this role, I lead the design, delivery and evaluation of programs and other initiatives aligned with the department's commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and anti-racism undertaken in a manner that reflects the diverse experiences and interests of equity-deserving groups and acknowledges and honours Indigenous wisdom, self-determination, and ways of knowing.

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

I think I am most proud of the fact that every day I wake up and choose to do what feels challenging. Not just because EDI and anti-racism work can be a long uphill battle, but also because, as someone from an equity-deserving group, I know this work can truly take an emotional, physical and mental toll on you. It is not a typical 9-5. It is not just something I've studied or practiced, but it is something I live and do not get to truly walk away from. When I hear assurances from staff, faculty and learners that the work I am doing has made them feel heard and seen in ways they've never been before in the workplace, it reassures me that this work is worth the challenge.

As the youngest and only racialized person on the management team, it can be difficult to speak your piece and advocate for what you believe in, especially when you might be faced with opposition and resistance. But I've learnt that my voice, even if it is only one voice, has power and strength. Because I have a seat at the table, I have to use it to the best of my ability.

Connect with Councillor [Balakumar](#) on LinkedIn.

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

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## Councillor Spotlight

### Congratulations, Councillor Armitage, BSC'71



Job well done to John Armitage of Brookland Fine Homes and the Limestone District School Board - their Building Construction Internship Program has created 100 homes! To read more about John's support involving local Kingston students in learning hands on skills, and support to the Kingston community visit the article posted by [Ontario Home Builders Association](#).

If you have exciting news to share through your monthly newsletter, please reach out to Alumni Officer -Volunteer Liaison, [Lindsey Kull](#).

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## News & Events

### Alumni Volunteer Summit (AVS) – June 17, 2023 Registration is Open



Register and join fellow alumni volunteers for an exciting day of networking and learning on Saturday, June 17 on Queen's beautiful campus in Kingston.

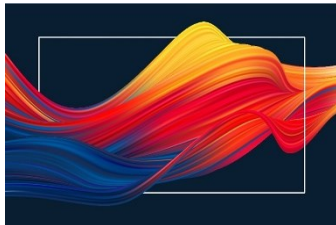
As the first full day, in-person conference since the pandemic, AVS 2023 is all about “connection and reconnection.” Our program includes Keynote Speaker, Dean of Student Affairs, Ann Tierney, VP (Advancement) - Karen Bertrand, an engaging student panel, and more – and great opportunities to network with committed Queen's alumni volunteers like yourself.

More details and registration are available [online](#).

Please reach out to the [QUAA Board](#) if you have any questions.

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## Celebrate at the 2023 QUAA Awards Gala June 17, 2023



Following AVS, join alumni and staff in celebrating the [2023 QUAA Gala Award Recipients](#) at the [2023 QUAA Awards Gala in the Biosciences Atrium](#).

[Registration](#) is open for both virtual and in-person attendance. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to celebrate some of Queen's most accomplished alumni and students.

Keep up to date on all upcoming alumni events by visiting the [Alumni Events](#) page on the website.

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## Learning Opportunities

### Supporting Positive Space at Queen's



In light of Mental Health Awareness week, the Human Rights and Equity Office (HREO) has provided the opportunity for you to learn more about the [Positive Space](#) program at Queen's.

This asynchronous learning will take 45-60 minutes. You will learn more about how the Positive Space sticker

program supporting sexual and gender diversity and creating safe spaces on campus.

If you have any questions about access to this asynchronous module, please reach out to [Lindsey Kull](#), Alumni Officer – Volunteer Liaison.

## 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](#)
- [Queen's Encyclopedia](#)
- [Queen's Strategic Goals](#)



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