



University Council September 2022 Newsletter

Council Updates

Committee Updates

The **Executive Committee** will be meeting in October to review the proposed agenda for the 146th Annual General Meeting (AGM). Stay tuned for AGM-related announcements!



Nominating Committee: Welcome to the following Councillors who began their terms on September 1st. Check out their [biographical sketches](#).

- [John Armitage](#), Sc'71 (re-elected)
- [Heather Black](#), Sc'80 (re-elected)
- [Elena Christopoulos](#), Artsci'10
- [Dr. Kieva Hranchuk](#), Artsci'09
- [Chessa Jope](#), Com'09
- [Erin Polansky](#), Artsci'96
- [Saara Romu](#), Artsci'98
- [Frannie Shen](#), Com'21
- [Amrita V. Singh](#), Law'12 (re-elected)
- [Susan Smith](#), Artsci'91 (re-elected)
- [Elaine Wu](#), Artsci'98, MIR'00, Law'03 (re-elected)

Thank you to the following Councillors for their service; they completed their terms this August:



- Kofi Adow, MBA'17
- Stephanie Garraway, Artsci'12
- Katrina Samson, Artsci'01, BEd'02
- Denise Shortt, Artsci'89
- Sarah Virani, Artsci'11

ICOUNT Queen's Equity Census: Watch for an email from the Human Rights and Equity Office. Councillors who have not yet completed the Census will be asked to do so, to provide a more accurate summary of Council's current composition. The Census measures the representation of the four designated categories of the Federal Government's employment equity legislation (women, racialized groups/visible minorities, Indigenous/Aboriginal peoples, and persons with disabilities).



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: The Program Committee is pleased to announce your fall programming:

- **September 22, 2022: New Councillor Orientation** will be delivered virtually and involves participation of University Council Committee chairs, Council Trustee and Board Chair, and a presentation on I-EDIAA. Calendar invites, with Zoom details have been extended to all participants.
- **November 4, 2022: Welcome Session** - The formal session will include a presentation from a keynote speaker, an outline of reports included in the AGM, consent agenda with an interactive Q&A.
- **November 4, 2022: Distinguished Service Award Celebration** - Inaugurated by the University Council in 1974, this award recognizes individuals who have made the University a better place through their extraordinary contributions. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Councillors are encouraged to attend the event in person in Kingston to celebrate the 2022 Recipients:
 - Leslie Dal Cin
 - Leslie Flynn, Artsci'78
 - Dan Langham
 - James Leech, MBA'73
 - Don Raymond, BSC'84
 - Kim Woodhouse
- **November 4, 2022: Council Social, hosted by the Program Committee** - Councillors will meet to have an informal social with each other and student leaders. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided, and a cash bar will be available.
- **November 5, 2022: Annual Meeting** - With the Theme of Transformation: Managing Chance, the Program Committee is developing an exciting program to deepen Councillors' knowledge to be actively engaged.

Hold the dates now and details will follow, including an updated online Councillor Handbook as a resource for all Councillors. If you have any questions, please contact ucouncil@queensu.ca.



Mary Dodd, Com'84
Chair, Program Committee

Council Trustees: The next regular Open Session of the Board of Trustees meeting will be held on September 30-October 1, 2022 (meeting dates can be found on the [Board website](#)). The Board agenda and minutes can be reviewed on the [Governance Portal](#).

To attend an Open Session, please submit your request in advance to the [Board of Trustees](#).

Senate: Meeting dates can be found on the Senate [website](#). The next regular Senate meeting will be held on September 27, 2022. You can view the Senate agenda and minutes on the [Governance Portal](#). To attend any portion of the meeting, please [email](#) your request in advance.

Meet A Councillor

COUNCILLOR: RABBI ERIN POLANSKY, ARTSCI'96



Why did you select Queen's University?

When I was applying to universities for undergrad, I was pretty sure that I would attend McGill like everyone else in my family. But I was accepted to Queen's early acceptance, and my mother suggested that we come and tour the campus. As soon as I set foot on campus I fell in love. To me, this is what a university was supposed to look and feel like. I could envision myself sitting in the stacks in the library for hours and breathing in the knowledge of generations that came before me.

What was your most memorable moment as a student?

In my second year at Queen's, I was co-president of Queen's Hillel, the Jewish students' association. That year, the High Holy Days were to fall during Frosh Week, which meant that many Jewish students would miss the festivities and the administrative processes, like receiving their student cards and such. I was asked to address all of the dons and frosh leaders during their orientation. It was the largest crowd I had ever addressed to that point. Though I was nervous, it was a great experience and helped to inform and educate, and to ensure understanding for the Jewish students.

Can you tell us a little about your career?

I was ordained as a rabbi in 2000 and have served congregations in Minneapolis, Toronto, and Vaughan. I came to Kingston to assume the position of Rabbi of Beth Israel Congregation in 2018. Here I am the only full time professional serving the congregation. I run the Hebrew/Religious school, weekly services, holiday services, pastoral care, and community organizing and outreach. It is a big job, but one that is very fulfilling.

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

Set healthy boundaries and stick to them.

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

I am most proud of how I, together with my leadership team, was able to keep our congregation relevant and connected to our members through Covid. Despite the limitations imposed upon us by Jewish tradition, we were able to connect our members to worship services, educational opportunities and social events. Unlike many other congregations who have lost members, Beth Israel has grown in membership over these past three years.

How do you spend your free time?

I have four children, the youngest of whom is 6 years old, so I don't have a lot of free time! Any time not spent working is spent with my children—usually shuttling them to and from their extra-curricular activities, preparing them for school or playing games that a 6 year old enjoys! When I have childcare, my husband and I enjoy travelling.

What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?

Our congregation is very connected to and affected by what happens at Queen's. We are supportive of Queen's students who want to worship with us, and employ some Queen's students as teachers in our Religious School. I felt that my involvement with the University Council would help to bridge the distance between these two worlds which are so interconnected.

What are your aspirations for being a University Councillor?

Jewish students on campuses across Canada have been the victims of antisemitism—whether overt or concealed. Sometimes assumptions are made about Jewish students that have no basis in reality. What happens on campus spills over to the Kingston community. We feel threatened when students feel unsafe. I hope to be able to advocate for equality and understanding for Jewish students and any other ethnic minority that is threatened or discriminated against.

Connect with Councillor [Polansky](#) on LinkedIn

Councillor: Elena Christopoulos, Artsci'10



Why did you select Queen's University?

I wanted to attend a university that had the best science curriculum in Canada so I could establish a solid foundation in sustainability and as a climate scientist.

What is your most memorable moment as a student?

The moment I realized I wanted a career in sustainability and as a climate scientist. I met many amazing professors at Queen's University who became my mentors and helped shape my career. They helped make this dream a reality.

Can you tell us a little about your career?

As the founder of a sustainability management consulting firm, my contributions have helped create over 500,000+ green jobs worldwide with 60% of the positions going to women and BIPOC. As a climate scientist and political advisor, I have actively worked throughout my career to bring more women and BIPOC to the table and have successfully managed over 40 political and environmental campaigns worldwide.

I recently furthered my education at the Yale School of Public Health with the Yale Center on Climate Change and Health (CCCH). I know a world with a stable and safe climate is one in which human health and diverse ecosystems can thrive.

As a Commissioner for the City of Santa Monica, my role is to advise the City Council on sustainability issues and policies relevant to women and girls. As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I use my voice to ensure we are represented.

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

I was once told by one of my mentors to cultivate confidence. She said confidence is a better predictor of career success than competence. That's not to say that competence isn't important,

but just doing a fabulous job might not get you ahead. Research shows that confidence makes up 79% of your “gravitas”. This advice is especially true for women. We need to take up more space.

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

My career path has led me in two directions: climate science and politics, one always seemed to influence the other. Accordingly, I have two highlights that I am so very proud of.

My first highlight is implementing the first urban wind turbine in North America (260m) located in downtown Toronto, and then constructing the first urban wind turbine and energy program on a community college campus in Los Angeles California.

My second highlight is becoming a Commissioner in the City of Santa Monica. I have worked behind the scenes in politics for over 20 years and never thought I would run for a political office. As they say; all politics are local and I am very proud of the work that I have done on the local level in the sustainability field, improving women’s rights, a housing advocate and increasing voter registration (especially for the Gen Z folks).

How do you spend your free time?

I think it is so very important to take time for things you love besides work. Even if you love your work, you need balance in your life. I think it is very important to remember that you are not your work. With that said, I do love to spend time in nature and that includes hiking, biking, surfing and playing soccer. I also took a Leica photography class recently and quite enjoy taking photos which ultimately does allow me to enjoy the outdoors.

What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?

My time as a student at Queen’s University was one of the hardest, most transformative periods of my life. As a Survivor, I understand that many students struggle at university, and it is my goal to be a voice for those who have felt overlooked, are coping with trauma or mental health issues, or have had a challenging university experience.

What are your aspirations for being a University Councillor?

It is a privilege to serve the Queen’s community on the University Council and I hope to bring a compassionate lens to ensure that all students thrive throughout their academic and professional careers and that no one is left behind.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

I reside and work in both Canada and the United States and believe this gives me a unique perspective which I will bring to the University Council. I am also the Queen’s University Alumni Southern California Branch President and a Member of the Queen’s University Alumni Association Board Assembly.

Connect with Councillor [Christopoulos](#) on LinkedIn

Councillor: Dr. Keiva Hbranchuk, Artsci'09



Why did you select Queen's University?

To me, Queen's was always the best of the best and I had set my sights high. After taking a quick weekend trip with my family to visit, I knew it was where I wanted to be. I was absolutely ecstatic when I got accepted!

What is your most memorable moment as a student?

I can remember feeling very excited when Alistair MacLean, the Dean of Arts and Science at the time, accepted to take me on as his thesis student during the fourth year of my honour's degree in Psychology. Alistair was open-minded and made room for me to study something that I was truly interested in, within the confounds of his own area of expertise. Having a mentor who was so caring and supportive was invaluable to me as I moved along the path toward my own career in academia.

Can you tell us a little about your career?

I received my undergraduate degree in Psychology from Queen's University in 2009 and then a Behavioural Science Technician post-graduate certificate from George Brown College in 2010. I then worked at both Surrey Place Centre in Toronto and at the CHEO Autism Program in Ottawa before making the big move to New York City. While there, I earned my M.A. in Teaching as Applied Behaviour Analysis and my Ph.D. in Applied Behaviour Analysis at Columbia University. I have taught as a Professor at Columbia University, Arizona State University and Brock University. I also helped to pioneer the Scottsdale Children's Institute, an integrated kindergarten readiness program down in Arizona where I served as the Clinical Director for two years before moving back to Canada. I currently sit on the Program Board for the Association for Behaviour Analysis International as the Area Coordinator for Behavioral Development.

When I am not providing services through my private practice, Kenna Learning Inc., I work as a cross-appointed Professor in the Behavioural Science and Behavioural Psychology Faculties at St. Lawrence College. I am both a certified special education teacher and a doctoral-level board certified behaviour analyst. I specialize in teacher training as well as in supervision of evidence-based service delivery to students with and without disabilities. My interests include effective delivery of instruction, analyzing rates of learning in young children, inclusion/integration, kindergarten readiness, and the CABAS® (Comprehensive Application of Behaviour Analysis to Schooling) model. My research focuses on how teaching procedures can be effectively modified to accelerate student learning.

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

If you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life. Take the time to figure out what that really is.

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

Probably my academic publications because evidence-based literature lives on long after you're gone, and the valuable discoveries made within the scientific community have far-reaching potential to help relevant populations indefinitely.

How do you spend your free time?

During my free time you will find me spending time with my family – my husband Mike, our two children James (3) and Leo (1) and our dog Freyja, who is a Norwegian Elkhound. One of our current major interests includes investing in the revival of our limestone farmhouse located on 7 acres just north of Kingston. It's a designated heritage site and we think it's a pretty special place! I also enjoy traveling whenever I can and playing the violin whenever I find a moment to do so.

What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?

I thought it was a great way to give back to a community that gave me so much.

What are your aspirations for being a University Councillor?

I hope to make valuable connections within the community, influence student life in positive ways, help shape policy/procedures at the University that will improve students' educational experience, and perhaps even find some new areas of interest in which I can be passionate and stive to make a difference.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I hope to be a point of contact or mentor for any student who wishes to find out more about what it was like to be a Queen's University student or who may have questions about what life has been like since graduating.

Connect with Councillor [Hbranchuk](#) on LinkedIn

Look for more Councillor profiles in your upcoming monthly [newsletters](#).

Councillor Spotlights

Bittu George, Artsci'95, Law'98: Task Force on Street Parties Update



The [Task Force on Street Parties](#) began its work with its first meeting on June 6. As formed by Principal and Vice-Chancellor Patrick Deane on February 15, 2022, the mandate of the Task Force on Street Parties shall be to:

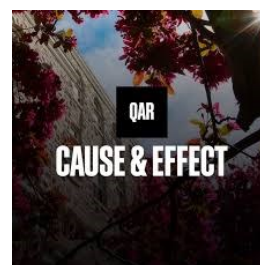
- a) Create a report on the effectiveness of current approaches and best practices used in other jurisdictions and make recommendations outlining strategies to address large street parties;
- b) Consult with Queen's students, community members, and other interested and affected members of the Queen's and/or Kingston community regarding the issue of street parties and potential approaches to address the issue; and
- c) Report back to the Queen's and Kingston community in the fall of 2022 with recommendations and an implementation strategy.

The Task Force consists of 24 individuals representing University administration, Senate, University Council, student government officials, Campus Security, City of Kingston representatives such as the Mayor, Bylaw Enforcement and Kingston Police, paramedics, hospitals, University Health, Public Health Unit, St. Lawrence College and RMC, and 4 District (neighbourhood) associations. Members of the Task Force divided into 5 working groups: Other university/sector approaches; Psycho-Social Analysis; Enforcement/Policing; Communications; and Public Health and Safety/Harm Reduction Education. Working groups have been meeting separately since June to draft recommendations for the Task Force. I sit on the Other University/Sector Approaches and Enforcement/Policing working groups. Three working groups presented their recommendations to the Task Force on August 8. The remaining two working groups will present their recommendations at the September 12 meeting. At this point, it appears that the Task Force will require an additional 1 or 2 more meetings before finalizing their recommendations for public review in mid to late Fall.

Kasmet Niyongabo Sc'11, MBA'20: Cause and Effect

Listen to *Alumni Review's* podcast, [*Cause and Effect*](#), which dives into the motivations of philanthropists and explores what they're passionate about and the impact they have on the world.

In [Episode 6](#), **Councillor Kasmet Niyongabo**, Sc'11, MBA'20 tells us about the planned gift he made shortly after his undergrad, and the unlikely influence his parents had on his decision.



To find out how you can become involved with this podcast, contact Alumni Officer, Volunteer Liaison [Lindsey Kull](#).

Featured Opportunities

Seeking an Advisory Board: *The Queen's Journal*



[*The Queen's Journal*](#) is looking for alumni to sit on the 2022-23 Journal Advisory Board, which meets monthly in a hybrid format to inform The Journal's operations. Board members review the financial and legal position of The Journal and approve all contracts and changes to advertising policies.

If you are interested in being a member of this Advisory Board interested or have any questions, please email the [Journal Editors](#).

Upcoming Events



The Isabel Bader Center for the Performing Arts brings the top artists in the world to Queen's. Tickets are available for live performances in the [2022-23 Season](#).

Can't make to Kingston to see your favourite artist or musical genre? Now you can attend these great concerts at Queen's University virtually, at no cost. Visit the [Isabel Digital Concert Hall](#) for more information.



October 28-30: We are looking forward to celebrating [Homecoming](#) in person with our alumni.

This is a milestone reunion year for graduating class years ending in two (2) or seven (7). [Registration](#) is now open, be sure to register for one (or all) of this year's signature events!

Learn about how you can volunteer to organize your class reunion and celebrate milestone anniversaries by contacting our [Reunions team](#) or call 1-800-267-7837 (toll-free in North America).

You can find more events here: [Events | Queen's Alumni \(queensu.ca\)](#)

Queen's Links to Keep You Informed

A great new resource for University Councillors - The Office of the Principal recently launched a new [website](#) to host all Strategy-related static and video content, offer status updates to the community, and showcase progress made in advancing **Queen's strategic goals**.

- [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

The privacy and security of your personal information are very important to us. Read our [Privacy Policy](#), [Update your address or contact information](#). If you wish to opt-out of communications of this kind, you can [Unsubscribe](#). Queen's University is situated on [traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Territory](#). Office of Advancement, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont. K7L 3N6

Queen's University | Summerhill, Kingston, ON K7L 3N6