



Get to know University Councillor: Sandra Kwon, PME'20



1. Most memorable moment as a student?

This one is tough, because my entire Queen's experience was online – even my convocation was virtual! I was really happy with my choice to study at Queen's as the entire experience was valuable and enriching.

2. What is your current career?

I've always worked in education; from tiny ones in kindergarten to young adults and mature students in post-secondary. Currently, I work as an Organizational Development Associate in the Education area of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. We work to bring learning and development opportunities to over 13000 staff members, to help them as individuals, team members, emerging leaders and care-providers.

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

I'm going to approach this one differently – after I had a one-on-one with a direct supervisor I realized that I was at a dead end, and that it was time to move on – which I did. It was probably not the outcome he expected from the conversation, but it was the right decision for me.

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

I was the lead in a pilot project that brought proactive, inclusive, peer-led academic support to students in a high-risk course; the project became a permanent feature of the course and I made some very meaningful connections with the faculty, leadership team, and students... that, and giving many international students their first job in Canada.

5. How do you spend your free time?

There's a lot of watching my teenagers play hockey and baseball, taking my dog for long walks, and exploring my city on foot. I love going to different neighbourhoods, finding great local shops to support, and enjoying the multi-cultural food offerings.

6. What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?

I wanted to serve to better understand and provide some input in how decisions are made in post-secondary institutions. Working in a variety of educational institutions, I gained some insight on the student experience, and the supports they need to set them up for success. With the positive experience I had at Queen's, and finally feeling like I had time and energy to offer, I took my shot at it.

7. What are your aspirations for being on University Council?

I don't have any individual aspirations, but I do wish for current and past Queen's students to recognize the Council as a group of people who care about students, and the future of the school, both at the community and international level. Whether it's supporting the student food bank, helping re-name Queen's buildings, or being Canadian leaders in the UNSDGs, I want the council's work to be meaningful and time well-spent, so we will inspire others to pursue being on council.

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