

2025 University Council Election

DETAILS

Election of ten (10) alumni to the Queen's University Council. Term: Four-year term commencing September 1, 2025. Candidates listed below in alphabetical order by first name.

Alexi White



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I am standing for election to University Council to give back to the Queen's community and to contribute my experience in student advocacy, human rights, and higher education policy to the Council's advisory role.

My work across the higher education sector has given me a keen sense of why our university is special. It stems from the unique melding of academic and research excellence with a broader learning environment that is unparalleled in Canada. I lived this firsthand as a Queens student and worked to strengthen it as AMS Academic Affairs Commissioner. I continued to advocate for Queen's students, and for tens of thousands of others at campuses across Ontario, as Executive Director of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance.

After a Master of Public Policy degree at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, my career has focused on addressing issues of poverty, inequality, and human rights in Canada, including through my work at B.C.'s Office of the Human Rights Commissioner and now at Maytree. I hope to contribute this experience and lens to the work of the University Council.

The Queen's experience was built in increments and sustained by generations of dedicated students, faculty, staff and alumni through a combination of innovation and tradition. Today, the legacy of disruption caused by the global pandemic, followed by a time of prolonged financial strain, risks causing lasting damage to our community. I believe we must address these challenges head on, not to restore the past but to embrace the future.

I hope to contribute my professional expertise to support Queen's and the students of today and tomorrow as we strive for a university and society of greater equity, compassion and thought.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Alexi White, ArtSci'08, Toronto, ON, is the Director of Systems Change at Maytree where he advocates for government policies that will fulfill economic and social rights. He is a former opinions editor at

the Journal, long-time Walkhome employee, AMS Academic Affairs Commissioner, and Executive Director of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance. He received a Master of Public Policy degree from Harvard and has worked in both the Ontario and B.C. governments, including as Director of Policy in the Office of the Ontario Minister of Education and Executive Director of Research and Policy at B.C.'s Office of the Human Rights Commissioner. His higher education policy experience includes roles with the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities and as a senior government relations advisor at the University of British Columbia. He has served on the board of the Vancouver Opera and the Little Mountain Neighbourhood House.

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Ali Meghani



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I am deeply honoured to be nominated for a position on Queen's University Council. I have had the privilege of volunteering with the Queen's University Alumni Association and am inspired to contribute further by serving the university in this meaningful capacity.

Queen's has always held a special place in my heart. Like many alumni, I feel a profound sense of pride and gratitude for having been part of this remarkable institution. Over the past few years, I have had the opportunity to return to our beautiful campus and engage in thoughtful conversations about the university's direction and the challenges and opportunities ahead. I have also had the pleasure of mentoring prospective and current Queen's students, helping them navigate their academic journeys and encouraging their aspirations.

In addition to my involvement with Queen's, I also serve on the board of a not-for-profit organization, where I contribute to governance, strategic planning, and community engagement. This experience has deepened my understanding of effective leadership and collaboration - insights I would bring with great care and humility to my role on the University Council.

My motivation for joining the Council stems from a sincere desire to give back to the Queen's community and to support its continued growth. If elected, I will strive to promote the university's strategic goals, strengthen alumni engagement, and support initiatives that enhance student well-being and the overall Queen's experience. I hope to contribute to governance that reflects the values and vision of our university.

It would be a true honour to serve and support Queen's in this role. I am committed to championing its legacy, advancing its mission, and fostering the close-knit spirit that makes Queen's so special.

Thank you for your kind consideration. Cha Gheill!

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

ALI MEGHANI, M.PL'16, Toronto, ON, City Planner. Registered Professional Planner (RPP) and Project Management Professional (PMP). Elected Queen's University student representative to the Ontario Professional Planners Institute, 2014-16. Recipient of the International Experience Award from the School of Urban and Regional Planning, Queen's University in 2016. Board Member, Don Valley Community Legal Services. Active Queen's alumnus involved in various alumni engagement initiatives and mentoring recent graduates.

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Chris Polson



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Throughout my academic and professional journey I have been consistently inspired by the transformative power of education. My recent experiences as a guest speaker at a number of Queen's Commerce events, as a mentor and advisor to several students, and as the founder of the Polson Family Scholarship are an expression of my desire to give back to this community.

One of my primary goals in joining the University Council is to foster greater collaboration between the university and external communities. By strengthening ties with industry partners, alumni, and local organizations we can create a dynamic network that offers invaluable opportunities for internships, mentorship, and community service. This synergy not only enriches the student experience but also bolsters the university's reputation as a beacon of innovation and social responsibility.

Another driving force behind my interest in joining the council is my desire to provide students with access to greater information and resources about their contemplated career paths. By enriching their educational experience and giving them more confidence in how they can best impact the world after graduation we can empower them to make better informed decisions about their futures.

I am eager to contribute to the council's mission and work collaboratively to build a brighter future for our university.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

CHRIS POLSON, BCOMM '00, MBA '07, Toronto, ON, Partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Chartered Professional Accountant, Certified Management Accountant, Certified in Financial Forensics, Chartered Financial Analyst (Prior National Board Chair), Chartered Business Valuator (Current National Board Chair), Fellow Chartered Arbitrator. Founder of Polson Family Scholarship for Queen's Commerce students. Facilitator of ICD Not-For-Profit Board Chair Peer Group (GTA Chapter).

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Connor Murray



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

When I was accepted into Queen's I decided to attend because of the school's sterling reputation. Without visiting campus, talking to an alumnus, or even knowing a student that was currently enrolled, I made the decision to attend Queen's University, which at the time, was the biggest decision of my life.

However, after making this decision, I felt immediately validated whenever I told one of my teachers or another adult that I was attending Queen's. Each "wow" confirmed to me that I had made the right decision and grew my expectations for what an education at Queen's would be like.

Amazingly, across my four-year undergraduate program, Queen's delivered on these lofty expectations. I had an incredibly engaging program, interested professors, and I was involved in exciting extra curriculars, one of which sent me to Maun, Botswana to work for an NGO. But most importantly, I left with an amazing group of friends and the quiet confidence that I had graduated from Queen's University.

Queen's trajectory has since changed and the sterling reputation that informed my decision to attend Queen's has been replaced with recent fears of bankruptcy. These concerns are not unfounded as Queen's budget deficit for the 2024-2025 fiscal year is projected to be \$35.7M. This figure an improvement on the previous fiscal year's budget deficit but it is clear a lot of work will need to be done to ensure Queen's can continue.

With drastic changes on the horizon, I hope to use my position on the council to ensure that the changes do not impact the things that made Queen's an amazing place to attend school. Amidst these changes, Queen's has to prioritize tradition, academic excellence, and a commitment to the social experience of the student body, I aim to make sure this is the case.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Connor Murray BA'16, New York, NY, is a practicing lawyer at the New York office of a leading Canadian law firm. Originally from Central Ontario, Connor decided to attend Queen's University without visiting the campus, speaking to an alumnus, or even knowing another student that was enrolled. The prospect of a new adventure was exciting, and it proved to be as Connor made many friends in my times at Queen's and participated in a number of student led initiatives including Queen's Project on International Development, which sent him to Maun, Botswana for a summer. Since making the decision to enrol at Queen's, Connor has continued to pursue adventure which has led him to working for the World Bank in Washington D.C. spending two summers as a forest fire fighter in Northern Ontario, serving in the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve as a diver and now working as a lawyer in New York City.

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Don McNamee



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

As a proud Queen's alumnus and lifelong advocate for educational excellence, I am honoured to accept the nomination to serve on the Queen's University Council. Queen's shaped my foundational experiences as a student, and I now seek to give back by contributing my expertise in global education, leadership, and system-wide innovation to the continued advancement of our university.

Throughout my career, I have worked at the intersection of education and technology, holding leadership positions that span classroom teaching, Head of School roles, and executive leadership with Apple Inc. Currently, I serve as Director of Education Technology at a leading international school, where I oversee strategic educational planning and innovation initiatives in Vietnam and across Southeast Asia.

What I bring to Council is a global perspective, a systems-level understanding of governance, and a deep commitment to purposeful institutional innovation. My work focuses on scalable and sustainable models of digital transformation in education, and I have led initiatives that advance leadership development, student-centered learning environments, wellbeing, and the ethical use of technology. These priorities align closely with Queen's strategic pillars—equity, sustainability, innovation, and student success.

As a senior education leader, I understand the importance of thoughtful policy, evidence-based decision making, and inclusive engagement. I believe in the vital role of alumni in shaping Queen's future and sustaining its excellence through active service, mentorship, and stewardship.

The University Council plays a unique and essential role in both preserving Queen's legacy and shaping its future. It would be a privilege to join this work—contributing my experience, energy, and strategic vision in support of a university that has given me, and so many others, the foundation for a lifetime of growth and contribution.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Don McNamee (Arts'95) is a seasoned education leader whose career spans executive leadership and global consultancy. He currently serves as Director of Education Technology at Saigon South International School, and has previously held roles as Head of School in New Zealand, Chief Innovation Officer in the UAE, and Leadership Executive with Apple Inc. in Canada. At Queen's, Don was a member of the Arts'95 Intramural Council throughout his studies, co-chaired the University Intramural Council and is a permanent executive member of the Class of '95. He received both the ASUS and AMS Letter Award for his contributions to sport and to the City of Kingston, and was awarded the Queen's Arts and Science Cup for his leadership in intramurals. A founding member of the New Zealand Queen's Alumni Branch, he has participated in alumni events across Canada, Singapore, and the UK. Don holds four post-secondary degrees, including in urban economics, GIS, education, and educational leadership. His work focuses on ethical innovation, digital strategy, , and capacity-building across Southeast Asia.

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Gordon Francis



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

My interest in standing for election to the University Council is to continue my participation in Queen's affairs as an alumnus. My career following graduation (Medicine) includes clinical, academic, research & pharmaceutical experiences that provide a unique perspective to bring to my role as a Council member regarding aspects of teaching, administration & research. As permanent Class President, I was engaged in leading & promoting ongoing commitment to Queen's by my classmates, including in the form of class gifts culminating in the largest class reunion gifts ever in the Faculty of Medicine. Coupled with experience from the Dean's Capital Campaign, I thus also feel well placed to participate in UC Advancement efforts. I look forward to active participation in this aspect of Queen's life having both the time & motivation to do so.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Gordon S Francis, Meds '74. San Francisco, California. Chief Vig Pre-Medicine 1969. Aesculapian Society member 1969-71. Permanent Class President Meds '74. Dean's Campaign Cabinet member 2012-2020. Residency in Internal Medicine & Neurology. Career as Clinical Neurologist 1980-1998. Practiced at the Montreal Neurological Hospital (MNI) 1983-1998. Assis Prof McGill involved in teaching students/residents including Neurology Program Director. Clinical Research Director MNI 1993-98. Clinical Development in pharmaceutical industry 1998-2014. Pharmaceutical consultant 2014-present. Annual Fund section co-chair, French American International School, San Francisco, 2017-2024. Enjoys sports and reading as main hobbies.

Hazem Mahmoud



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

As a proud alum of Queen's University, I am motivated to continue this wonderful journey in shaping the University's future. As a Councillor, I will be a dynamic ambassador promoting Queen's interests not only domestically or regionally, but across the globe. As an immigration consultant, I connect with individuals, groups, partners, and organizations in Canada and around the world.

During my term as University Councillor, I promise to achieve the following:

1. Promote Queen's interests ethically, professionally, and enthusiastically. Not only to meet the University's financial goals but also to rank higher in research, sustainability, and DEI.
2. Listen carefully to all alumni; make sure their voice is heard at all Council meetings or events.
3. Collaborate with the valuable Council members to implement new ideas to foster an inclusive environment for all students, professors, and staff.
4. Leverage my skills, time, and experiences as a seasoned project and program manager to help shape and advance Queen's strategic priorities to lead nationally and internationally.
5. Help building stronger bridges between Queen's and its students, alumni, professors, staff, communities, and partners.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

HAZEM MAHMOUD, GDipICL'24, Ottawa, ON, Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC-IRB). P.Eng., Professional Engineers Ontario. Project Management Professional (PMP), PMI. Volunteers Committee Chairman, Alzheimer Society - district office. Former volunteer with: MAAD, LLS, and Les amis de la montagne.

Heather Black



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I am seeking reelection to University Council to sustain my active connection to the Queen's community and enable me to continue to find meaningful ways to give back. I currently serve on the Queen's Board as an elected Council Trustee - my second 3 year term, serving on 3 Board committees. I am also serving on the UC Program Committee - and have been on all the standing committees of UC as well as Special Purpose Committees and assignments. I am committed to Queen's and feel that University Council is an excellent way to give back and remain involved in the Queen's Community. In my next term, in addition to my Board commitment, I want to continue to strengthen ties between UC and the Queen's Alumni Association through attendance at QUAA events, ongoing interaction with the QUAA President and Board, and encouraging UC engagement with the QUAA. I remain focused on ensuring our Councillors are good ambassadors for Queen's as well as solidifying strong ties between UC and the Board.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Sc'80, Toronto, ON. Past Vice President, Architecture and Planning, Latin American Systems, Scotiabank. Morris Hall and Leonard Field Residence Councils. QUAA Board from 2003. QUAA President 2009-2011, with service on Queen's Advancement Committee and Capital Campaign Cabinet. UC Reform Committee, 2012-2013, Chancellor Selection Committee, 2014 & 2024. Served multiple terms on UC Program, Executive and Nominating Committees. UC rep to QUAA Assembly. President's Advisory Committee on Non-Academic Misconduct, 2015. Currently in second term as Council Trustee on the Queen's Board to June 2026. Board Committees: Vice Chair of University Culture Committee; member of Finance, Assets & Strategic Infrastructure and Nominating & Governance committees.

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Jeremy Ambraska



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Some of my favourite memories at Queen's come from volunteering or working with the University to make Queen's a better place for everyone. I would be honoured to have the opportunity to give back as an alumni and remain involved with the community. I feel that my experience as a former student leader, undergraduate, and law student will give me a great perspective to add to the role and work positively with my colleagues.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jeremy Ambraska, BA'17, JD'20, Toronto, ON, practicing labour and employment lawyer. Member of the Law Society of Ontario. Former member of the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society (ASUS), Queen's Law Student (LSS) Society and former President of the Society of Graduate and Professional Students at Queen's (SGPS).

John Donohue



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I am interested in helping promote the quality education and environment provided at Queen's University at Kingston. I benefitted greatly from attending Queen's for my first two degrees (Psychology 1990 and Education 1992), and look forward to encouraging new generations of students in an official capacity.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

JOHN J. DONOHUE, BScH 1991, BEd 1992, MA (uOttawa) 1994, PhD (uOttawa) 2001, Ottawa, ON, Former chair of the BEWS and BEWIC sports organizations. Former member of ASUS council. Volunteer with the Kanata Basketball Association and local high school basketball teams.

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Keith Siva



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I am motivated to join the University Council because I believe in the transformative power of education and the importance of inclusive, strategic leadership in shaping the future of our institution. As someone with a background in law, business, and engineering, and having worked extensively in both academic and corporate settings, I bring a multidisciplinary perspective to decision-making. My experience in organizational design, policy development, and governance enables me to contribute meaningfully to conversations about the university's long-term strategy, financial sustainability, and student success.

My motivation is also deeply personal. As a former instructor at two Canadian universities, I've witnessed the immense potential of students when supported by inclusive policies, strong academic programs, and a healthy campus culture. I want to ensure that our institution remains responsive to the changing needs of students, faculty, staff, and the broader community—particularly in the areas of mental health, equity, innovation, and research.

During my term, I aim to focus on three key contributions:

- Strengthening governance by ensuring transparency and accountability in decision-making processes.
- Advocating for student-centric policies that support academic achievement, wellness, and meaningful career readiness.
- Fostering community engagement by building bridges between the university, alumni, industry partners, and government stakeholders to create opportunities and shared value.

By joining University Council, I hope to bring a voice that is thoughtful, collaborative, and driven by results. I am committed to helping the university uphold its mission and navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead with integrity and purpose.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Keith Siva, B.sc'01, University of Windsor, ON, B.com'05, University of Windsor, MBA'20, Queens', Kingston, ON, LLM'22, Queens', Kingston, ON., CHRP'14, Alberta.

Laura Gillis



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I chose to attend Queen's as an out-of-province student; I was drawn to Lake Ontario, which reminded me of the Nova Scotian coast I call home. I feel very fortunate to have experienced the unique, community-driven spirit that defines Queen's.

My first year was framed by Reform Smith, a project whose team I remain indebted to for their dedication to building a better experience for all Commerce students. Inspired by their work, I committed my time at Queen's to advocating for the same cause. I started by conducting research for Queen's Women In Leadership, identifying perceived barriers to entry for clubs (for women and BIPOC in particular) and how those extend into associated industries. I joined the Smith Commerce Society Assembly and served as an Advisory Board Director, later becoming a member of the AMS Judicial Committee. Regular engagement in critical discussion of evolving university policies fostered my interest in university governance.

Queen's global impact leadership solidified my commitment to global citizenship, and fuelled my passion for research. I believe that education is both the greatest potential disruptor and perpetuator of social inequality - which is why I am dedicating my career to advancing access to and quality of education for all. In September 2025, I will begin an MSc in International & Comparative Education at the University of Glasgow. As I complete graduate studies overseas, I see an opportunity to represent Queen's internationally. I'm excited by the potential to connect Queen's into innovations and emerging issues in higher education and further expand Queen's presence in the global education sphere.

It would be a privilege to serve on the University Council, paying it forward in true Queen's spirit. I'm eager to bring a perspective informed by advocacy and research; I would be honoured to contribute to the sustainable advancement of Queen's mission.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

LAURA K. GILLIS, BComm '24, Halifax, NS, Incoming MSc student (University of Glasgow, International & Comparative Education). Risk Research, Stewart McKelvey Lawyers. Queen's Activities & Societies: Member (2023-24), AMS Judicial Committee; Jr. Advisory Board Director (2022-23), External Student Relations Officer (2021-22), Smith Commerce Society; People & Culture Director (2023-24), Education Coordinator (2022-23), Research Initiatives Coordinator

(2021-22), Queen's Women in Leadership; Stage Manager (2023-'24), Vogue Charity Fashion Show; Member, Tricolour Award Selection Committee (2022). Community Involvement: Volunteer Guider, Girl Guides of Canada; Volunteer, Kingston Interval House (2021).

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Laura Hudgin-Edge



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Please accept my expression of interest in joining the University Council at Queen's University.

I am at a new stage in life where my youngest child will be heading off to university next year (hopefully Queen's!)—giving me the space to re-engage with communities that have shaped me. This transition has prompted reflection on how I can give back, and I see this as a meaningful opportunity to support Queen's, a place that was instrumental in my own journey.

My experience at Queen's was not a traditional one. I attended university as a young single mother, raising my son while pursuing my education. The support we received—from An Clachan housing, the Queen's daycare, the student food bank, and the Ban Righ Centre, helped my son and I thrive. These experiences gave me a deep appreciation for the inclusive and supportive environment that Queen's fosters.

Now working in post-secondary academic quality assurance, following a career in K-12 education, I bring a strong foundation in curriculum, governance, and equity-driven leadership. A lot of my work has focused on inclusion, Indigenization, and community-building—perspectives I would bring to Council to support policies that ensure all members of the Queen's community feel welcome and valued.

If elected, I would focus on strengthening alumni engagement, supporting Queen's strategic goals in education, research, and community service, and ensuring alumni voices are reflected in governance decisions. I would also champion inclusive practices that reflect the diverse needs of our community.

Thank you for considering my application. I'm excited by the opportunity to give back to Queen's and contribute to shaping its future.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

LAURA L. HUDGIN EDGE, BAH'04, BEd'05, MA'10 (McGill), Halton Hills, ON, Curriculum Development and Program Review Consultant at Sheridan College. Former educator and Instructional Program Leader in the K–12 sector. Member of the Ontario College of Teachers. Course author and instructor for Queen's Continuing Education (2011–present). Former participant in Queen's Model Parliament (2001–2004) and Bader College at Herstmonceux Castle (2001). Current volunteer mentor and industry council member with Home Suite Hope, supporting education and housing security for single-parent families. Local volunteer with the Terry Fox Foundation and Rotary Club Community Dinners. Author of *The Moses Log House: Six Generations on Prince Edward County's Southshore*, with proceeds supporting the Hudgin House Restoration Committee.

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Lucas Anderson



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Like so many other alumni, my time at Queen's was formative and contributed much to my success today. Involvement in campus life through clubs, faculty events, and student government introduced me to the vibrant community at Queen's, and I benefited from meeting new people, learning about differing perspectives, and making lifelong friends. I am motivated to join University Council to continue to contribute to this community however I can.

Since graduating, I have held various roles in politics, government, and postsecondary education, and completed my Master's degree in public policy. I am hoping to leverage the expertise from my professional experiences and knowledge of the postsecondary system to support the institution and its priorities. As a member of Council, I will work to enhance alumni engagement initiatives and provide my best advice to the University.

Communities thrive when they are open, understanding, and proud, and I am committed to ensuring Queen's remains a vibrant institution where differences of opinion, experience or background are not just accepted but welcomed. Queen's has given me much, and I am hoping my term as a Councillor provides an opportunity to give back to the community that means so much to me and so many others.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lucas J.P. Anderson, BAH, Political Studies, Queen's University (2010), MPP, University of Toronto (2014). Recipient of the Cadario Fellowship in Public Policy (2013). Director, Public Affairs, at Humber Polytechnic in Toronto, ON.

Held roles in postsecondary administration since 2018. Previously worked for a federal political party and in the Ontario government, which included managing and being involved with numerous political campaigns between 2011 and 2018.

Served as AMS Commissioner of Internal Affairs (2009-10) and was responsible for leading the first implementation of online voting in student elections. Also served as an executive member for several clubs as well as a member of AMS Judicial Committee (2008-09) and Main Campus Residence Council (2006-07).

Marko Mrkoci



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I spent a significant portion of my academic and professional career at Queen's University from 1994 to 2001. During this time, I completed my undergraduate studies, an internship, and my Master's degree. I fully immersed myself in extra curriculars, playing varsity tennis team as an all-star athlete, becoming an award winning teaching assistant and enjoying Kingston. From 2004 to 2010, I returned to Queen's to help recruit our talented graduates into the workforce, deepening my connection to the university.

Recent returns for homecoming reminded me of the lasting impact the magic of Queen's has had on my personal and professional development. I had the opportunity to tour the campus with my university aged children and friends, encouraging them to explore the diverse academic, athletic, and social opportunities available in this wonderland.

I have long had the desire to contribute to the University Council, and I am now in a position to dedicate my time and professional experience in supporting the ongoing growth and success of Queen's University in a pragmatic and efficient way. With 25 years of engineering, business management and leadership experience, I know how to evaluate what is actually important, prioritize activities that will give desired results and execute to deliver. My goal is to make the Queen's experience ever better and make it the most desired place for post-secondary education.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

MARKO MRKOCI, B.Sc.E '99 (Engineering Chemistry), M.Sc.E '01 (Chemical). Professional Engineer Ontario (P.Eng). ASQ SSBB. Member of Queen's Men's Varsity Tennis team (All Star Athlete). Current volunteer on board of directors at Hamilton TC 2020-current. Former volunteer board member at

Ancaster TC 2016-2018; Trillium grant committee for new indoor bubble; volunteer high-school volleyball coach Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board.

Michael Parsche



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

My time as a member of Queen's University Council (2016-2021) and the University Council Executive (3 years) led to a greater motivation to serve Queen's. Participating in working groups such as the Special Purpose Committee on Alcohol Use and Abuse, Task Force on University Council in the 21st Century, and the Bylaw Working Group, deepened my commitment to the university.

My professional background in Higher Education at Algonquin College and my advocacy for innovative technology in academic services stem from my desire to enhance the student experience. This, combined with my expertise in Information Technology, Project Management, and Change Management, equips me to serve effectively as a Council member.

Over the past 5 years, my involvement in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community has grown both professionally and personally. Recognized by my workplace (Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services) as a member of the LGBTQ2+ Network of Allies, and driven by my middle child's experiences as a trans individual, I am motivated to create inclusive and affirming spaces for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

I profoundly enjoyed my previous role on University Council and continue to be a brand ambassador for Queen's. I am eager to serve again, driven by my unwavering motivation to contribute to the university's growth and inclusivity.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

MICHAEL PARSCHE, SC'88, Ottawa, ON, Project Management Professional (PMP). Former member of Queen's University Council (2016 to 2021). Served on University Council Executive from 2018-2021.

Norman Farrell



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Having the privilege of being associated with Queen's University for many years, though primarily from a distance, I wish to contribute more directly to the university's welfare, its promotion both domestically and internationally, as well as assist in advancing the university's strategic priorities.

Working overseas for years with colleagues of different backgrounds, cultures, and education, I had the opportunity to appreciate the importance of the excellent education and the sense of community that Queen's has to offer. This broader perspective has reinforced my belief in the value of such an education. I hope to contribute to maintaining the excellent academic quality at Queens, its community, and to the preparation of students for the diverse world that many will encounter.

It is my hope that the various functions that I have performed will be useful in fulfilling a role on the University Council, which included establishing networks across differently motivated groups or states, written advocacy, working effectively in a team with persons from different backgrounds and cultures, overseeing an annual budget of approximately \$10M USD with a staff of more than 100 persons, as well as fund raising.

I have been fortunate to have been engaged with Queen's since graduating by lecturing as an adjunct at the law school since 2003. Through this lens I have seen the University develop, and witnessed the changes and challenges faced by students. There are other challenges recently faced by the University, such as the significant financial constraints resulting in the efforts to achieve a balanced operating budget by end of fiscal year 2025-2026. Despite the challenges ahead, through our support and commitment, Queen's will continue to have a positive impact on and by its students and its community. It would be a privilege to contribute to the University as a member of the Council.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NORMAN FARRELL, BA(Hons)'82, LLB'86, LLM'92 (Columbia, NY), Toronto, ON. Is currently Senior Counsel, War Crimes Section, Federal Dept of Justice. Prior to returning to Canada, Norm was an international prosecutor, investigating and prosecuting international crimes committed in the Former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Lebanon. He has been an Adjunct Professor, Queens Faculty of Law, teaching International Criminal Law since 2003 and International Human Rights Law since 2022. Recipient, 2023 Queens Law Alumni Justice Thomas Cromwell Distinguished Public Service Award. Recipient of the Ontario Law Society Medal 2025. International Gender Champion 2019-

2022 while Prosecutor at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. Organized Queens law student visits to The Hague, Netherlands as part of the public international law program. During university, was a Tutor at the Prison Literacy Initiative, Kingston; a Big Brother in Kingston; student at Queen's Prison Law Clinic; and Asst Mgr, Queen's Pub.

Priya Lingam



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

As a proud Queen's Executive MBA alum, I am deeply committed to the continued success and prosperity of Queen's University. I am eager to contribute my time, insight, and energy as a University Councillor to help advance the institution's strategic goals and foster deeper engagement with its alumni and broader community.

Throughout my career in Human Resources and organizational leadership, I have built a reputation as a collaborative relationship builder, an inclusive team player, and a trusted advisor. I bring over a decade of experience influencing senior leaders and boards across sectors, providing strategic counsel on talent, governance, and change management. My work has always been rooted in integrity, service, and advocacy—values I see strongly reflected in Queen's mission.

As a Councillor, I would draw on these strengths to act as an ambassador and connector—sharing alumni perspectives, participating meaningfully in Council governance, and actively supporting Queen's philanthropic and engagement efforts. I am particularly passionate about equity and inclusion, mentorship, and lifelong learning—areas I believe are critical to shaping Queen's future.

I welcome the opportunity to serve and to give back to the Queen's community that has helped shape my own leadership journey.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Priya Lingam, EMBA'24, BHRM'09, BSc'05, Calgary, AB, Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR). Executive MBA graduate, Smith School of Business, Queen's University. Over a decade of progressive leadership in Human Resources across both public and private sectors. Active volunteer with the Electricity Human Resources Canada (EHRC) Steering Committee, the Calgary Region Immigrant Employment Council (CRIEC) Mentorship Program, and SAIT's Jill of All Trades initiative. Passionate advocate for inclusive workplaces, mentorship, and community development.

Siena Margorian



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I graduated from Queen's last year during what I would describe as a tumultuous time for the university. Between major budget cuts, student push back, and increasingly polarized world issues that affect our campus community, there was a lot of uncertainty. Over the course of my five years at Queen's I engaged in student activism on campus, collaborated with administration, and grew comfortable with tackling the sticky issues. I am a proud alum of this university, in big part due to the unique student life at Queen's which allowed me to grow in ways that would not have been possible in the classroom alone. I am looking to join the University Council to continue to work towards bettering the place that has given me so many opportunities.

However, some have argued that universities such as Queen's are losing touch with their students but as a recent graduate of Queen's and as a current masters student, I will be able to bring a unique perspective to the Council to help bridge that disconnect. Moreover, during my term on the University Council I want to help Queen's uphold values of integrity, intellectual exploration, and against the tremendous pressure that North American universities are under (especially our counterparts south of the border). It is vital that Queen's, along with other Canadian institutions, remain beacons of hope and places of learning for the thousands of young adults that arrive at their doorsteps. Therefore, if I am elected to the University Council, I will be sure to advocate for maintaining academic rigour despite budget cuts, ensure that we are on the right track to hit goals of the 2016 Climate Action Plan, and to ensure that this university is a great place for undergraduate and graduate students alike.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

SIENA Z. MARGORIAN. BSC'23, BED'24, Montreal, QC, MSc Student in Renewable Resources. McCall MacBain Scholar. Current volunteer with Sustainable Youth Canada. AT QUEEN'S: Co-President of Queen's Backing Action on the Climate Crisis 2022-2024. Responder with Queen's First Aid 2022-2024. Co-Founder and Co-President of the Queen's Armenian Student Association 2020-2023. Virtual Coordinator of Helping Young People Excel 2020-2021. Member of the Queen's Novice Rowing Team 2019-2020.

Susan Zhang



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

My four years at Queen's gave me the foundation to build a life that would have amazed the first year who stepped on campus back in Fall of 2003. I was a first generation immigrant who had lived a life of instability and change; enrolling in Queen's was the biggest decision I made for myself at that age and it is still one of the best decisions I've made.

From working as a film trafficker at ReelOut Queer Film Festival to pulling all-nighters with friends at Stauffer (and post-exam celebrations at Alfie's of course), my experiences at Queen's forged lifelong friendships and memories. With the increasing financial and political uncertainties that universities are facing globally, I want to contribute my skills and knowledge to ensure future Queen's students have the same opportunity to receive an affordable, world class education and gain the experience and confidence to pursue their dreams.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Susan Zhang, BS'06 (Biology), BAH'07 (Classics), MHA'09 (Health Policy & Administration, Penn State), Durham, North Carolina, USA. Currently, a semi-retired entrepreneur after 15 years working in the US healthcare industry on both the provider and payor side in finance, analytics, and product strategy roles. Formerly, Vic Hall House President 2004 to 2005, Common Ground Smoothies and Bagel Sandwich Maker 2005 to 2006, and Hudson County, New Jersey Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children 2020 to 2022.

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Tamara Rebick



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I am seeking my next volunteer leadership opportunity, and I cannot imagine a more fitting place to direct my energy than the Queen's University Council. My time at Queen's fundamentally shaped my leadership journey; I gained insights into governance structures through my involvement with the AMS; as a QSC Assistant Manager, I developed management and safety skills; and as a Golden Gael athlete and coach, I enhanced my team development capabilities. I am motivated to join the University Council and get involved again at Queen's.

The tenacity and resilience I developed during my time at Queen's pushed me beyond perceived limitations and shaped my optimism that possibility and opportunity abound. I now know how to "fail forward" in bold, entrepreneurial ways. These are the mindsets, traits and skills that I wish to contribute. My professional and volunteer experiences equip me with insights that I hope will enrich the University Council including:

- Effective implementation of mission alignment through thoughtful and relational change management practices.
- Elevating intergenerational empathy for high team performance with active listening, thoughtful reflection and establishing shared vocabulary.
- Creating supportive spaces for learning and relearning power systems through courageous conversations while building bridges and holding space for multiple narratives.
- Advocating for the importance of institutional advancement through community engagement.

While contributing to the University Council, I look forward to personal and professional growth through new leadership experiences and mastering skills with a best-in-class organization. I hope to gain deeper insight into leading governance practices and understand how to advance impact through the University Council's spheres of influence. I hope that through my active participation I will expand my network of Queen's alumni and develop new connections with fellow council members. I am eager to apply my expertise to advance the University Council's vision and mandate.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Tamara Rebeck, ArtSci '98 BAH Political Studies & History; M.Ed (OISE/UofT) Adult Education & Community Development, Workplace Learning and Change. Toronto, ON. Founder & Chief Experience Officer, CORIPHERY Holistic Consulting Solutions. Strategic thought partner and advisor to leaders in community, education and nonprofit organizations seeking to advance social impact through engagement strategy, program optimization and culture change. Women of Inspiration Finalist (2021); Community of Practice Facilitator, No Silence on Race (2021-2022), Former Vice Chair, Future Possibilities for Kids (2021-2022); neWChapter committee - Women's College Hospital Foundation (2018-2020); founding member and co-leader, Sisterhood Salam Shalom (2017-2021). Queen's involvement: AMS Campus Activities Commission, Internal Affairs Commission; ArtSci Frosh Week Gael; Golden Gaels Synchronized Swimming team athlete and Assistant Coach; Queen's Student Constable Assistant Manager; Canadian Student Leadership Conference - office of the Dean of Arts and Science. Proud Queen's parent.

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Terry Reynolds



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Queen's University has been an integral part of my life, shaping my personal and professional journey. From playing and managing Queen's Rugby in 1978 and 1980, to serving as the Social Convenor for the Arts Faculty in 1979 and playing piano in Queen's Best, my university experience laid the foundation for many of the values I hold today. It has been a constant source of inspiration, and I believe I have much to offer in return.

In 2021, I contributed by teaching an online Everscholar course on climate change, sharing my knowledge on this crucial issue with the Queen's community. I also currently mentor a Loran Scholarship student, supporting their growth much like I was supported at Queen's.

I have been an educator my entire life, teaching social studies, business, and physical education. For the last decade, I taught at a Canadian school in Switzerland, which broadened my global perspective. Additionally, I served as the director of a high school for over 15 years. My experience in education has instilled in me a deep commitment to leadership, learning, and community engagement.

As a Kingston resident, I am the founder of the Limestone City Disc Golf Club and helped create the Grass Creek Disc Golf Course, offering new recreational opportunities to the local community.

With my diverse experiences in athletics, arts, teaching, mentorship, and community-building, I am eager to offer my perspective to the University Council. Queen's has played a pivotal role in my life, and I would be honored to help shape its future success.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

I have a BA, Queen's 1978, BEd, Queen's 1980, MBA, York 1994. I have been an educator my entire life, teaching social studies, business, and physical education. For the last decade, I taught at a Canadian school, Neuchatel Junior college, in Switzerland. Additionally, I served as the director of a high school for over 15 of my 28 years at Holy Trinity School in Richmond Hill. Throughout my teaching career, I have always coached, especially rugby, and been staff advisor on various student councils. My experience in education has instilled in me a deep commitment to leadership, learning, and community engagement.

Vishrut Shah



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

As a proud Queen's graduate whose life was transformed by the exceptional education, lifelong friendships, and significant support I received, I am deeply motivated to give back by serving on the University Council. I offer three distinct qualifications that would enhance the Council's perspective and effectiveness.

First, I bring a unique viewpoint as an international Ph.D. engineering graduate. Unlike most Councillors who completed their undergraduate studies at Queen's, my journey began elsewhere, providing me with comparative insights into how Queen's culture and services function for graduate students and international scholars - perspectives currently underrepresented on the Council.

Second, I offer relevant research expertise at a critical time. Queen's recent decline in QS rankings signals a need for strategic recalibration, particularly in research output and impact. Having conducted doctoral research at Queen's, I understand firsthand both the university's research strengths and areas needing development. This knowledge would be invaluable in guiding strategic priorities to strengthen Queen's global standing.

Third, my professional experience as a management consultant specializing in artificial intelligence and higher education provides practical value. I've collaborated with numerous Canadian universities facing similar challenges: reduced provincial funding, increased emphasis on equity and reconciliation, and the need to enhance hybrid learning experiences. This consulting background equips me to help Queen's navigate these complex landscapes effectively.

I am committed to preserving Queen's rich traditions while ensuring it evolves to meet future challenges. My combined academic and professional experiences would contribute meaningfully to Council deliberations and committee work. I am eager to channel my passion for Queen's into service that helps the university maintain its excellence while becoming more resilient, inclusive, and forward-thinking.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

VISHRUT SHAH, Ph.D. (Eng.) '21, Peterborough, ON, Senior Consultant, Data Scientist and AI Specialist at Nous Group. Queen's Affiliations: Queen's Graduate Management Consultant Association Co-President (2019-2020); Association of Indian Graduate Students at Queen's Vice-President (2018-2019); Queen's PhD-Community Initiative Member (2019-2020). Current volunteer with Rotary Club of Peterborough.

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Yasir Moin



STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Queen's University has significantly influenced my personal and professional growth. I am inspired to serve on the University Council due to a profound respect for the institution and a strong commitment to contributing to its success.

I consider this role a unique opportunity to contribute to Queen's ongoing pursuit of excellence, while incorporating alumni perspectives that balance tradition and progress. As a Councilor, I would aim to serve as a thoughtful advisor and ambassador, dedicated to promoting innovation and inclusion.

If elected, I will advocate for initiatives that enhance student well-being, such as increased access to mental health resources, improved accessibility services, and a focus on the overall student experience. These measures will ensure that students can thrive socially, academically, and personally.

I will dedicate time in enhancing alumni engagement through mentorship and career development programs, connecting students with the Queen's network at large. This will strengthen student success and foster a unified community.

Additionally, I will look to direct efforts into sustainability, research excellence, and interdisciplinary learning. I will collaborate with the Council to allocate resources to innovative programs and strategic partnerships. This will ensure that Queen's University remains at the forefront and continues to make a significant impact in an evolving world.

Through all this, I aim to offer a collaborative mindset, a commitment to service, and a genuine passion for Queen's. It would be an honor to contribute to the university and help shape a future that is inclusive, resilient, and ambitious.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Yasir Moin, BCOMM'12, Mississauga, ON, Partner of BDO Canada LLP, Member of the Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario (CPA Ontario) and Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada), Member of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans ("IFEBC"), Queen's University Smith School of Business Teacher's Assistant (2009-2012).

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