



Get to Know University Councillor Heather Black, Sc'80:



Biographical Sketch: Sc'80, Toronto, ON. Past Vice President, Architecture and Planning, Latin American Systems, Scotiabank. Morris Hall and Leonard Field Residence Councils. QAAA Board from 2003. QAAA 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 QAAA Assembly. President's Advisory Committee on Non-Academic Misconduct, 2015. Second term as Council Trustee to June 2026. Vice Chair of University Culture Committee.

1. Why did you select Queen's University?

One of my best friends went to Queen's the year before me and when he came back to Montreal at Thanksgiving, he said I had to go to Queen's – it would be perfect for me. My decision to go to Queen's was one of the first decisions I remember making based on intuition – and it continues to be one of the best decisions I ever made.

2. Most memorable moment as a student?

After spending first year in Arts & Science, when I finally got accepted into Engineering as a second-year student.

3. What is your job?

I retired from my last job – at Scotiabank – almost 9 years ago now. My last job was as a Vice President in Technology in International Banking where I worked with our large Latin American technology team, primarily in infrastructure and strategy.

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

Own my decisions. Don't be afraid to take a risk. Trust my intuition.

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

The multiple teams I built in many different roles over my career. Many of those team members remain my friends – and many of them have gone on to build strong and impactful teams of their own.

6. How do you spend your free time?

Now that my life is all about free time, I get to do more of what I always loved to do. Play tennis, cook, read, take pictures, long walks with my dogs, dinner parties with my friends and explore new places through travel. Last year I took my two dogs and drove across North America to Washington State. It was an amazing way to spend 7 weeks and we all had a blast doing it.

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

Having just completed my two-year term as Queen's University Alumni Association (QUAA) President, I was searching for a way to stay connected to Queen's and continue to give back in a meaningful way.

8. What are some of your most memorable milestones/accomplishments as a Councillor?

- Being part of the Chancellor Selection Committees that selected Jim Leech and more recently Shelagh Rogers
- Serving on the Principal's Advisory Committee for Non-Academic Misconduct
- Recommendations that came out of the Task force for University Council in the 21st Century

9. Your aspirations for being on University Council?

In my first term, I wanted to find a way to continue to serve Queen's. My role as part of the reform committee was an excellent introduction to University Council, as was being part of the Program Committee. I have now completed three terms as a Councillor and currently ex-officio on Council by virtue of my position as Council Trustee. My focus is on my Board work as well as continuing to be an active ambassador for Queen's. (I hope everyone is going to the QUAA Gala Awards in Toronto in June!!)

10. Do you have any words of wisdom for incoming Councillors?

Take opportunities to volunteer and get involved in committees and events. Participate actively in any meetings and take ownership of your ambassador role. Take opportunities to attend local Queen's events and identify yourself as a University Councillor to attendees.

11. Anything else you would like to add/highlight?

University Council is an opportunity for alumni to stay actively engaged with Queen's, offering possibilities to give back in many different ways. Personally, as a result of raising my hand and getting actively engaged in each role, I have developed new, and strengthened existing, relationships with other councillors, students and University staff. It has been a rewarding experience and I look forward to the next challenges.

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