



QUFA Executive Election 2021

CANDIDATES' STATEMENT

Nominee for Member at Large

Gillian Akenson

Librarian

Stauffer Library

I have served as a member of the QULA (Queen's University Librarians and Archivists) Executive caucus for many years, most recently wrapping up a term as Chair. My respect for the work that QUFA does for us makes me want to return the favour. Since most of my professional service has been limited to my own discipline, now seems a logical time to contribute to the broader QUFA community by standing as a Member at Large with the Executive Committee.

I have spent much of my time over the past year working with graduate students and faculty in the humanities and social sciences who have required support to continue their teaching and research work during the present pandemic. Consequently, a goal of mine is to ensure greater recognition by the administration of the extraordinary circumstances we have all been confronted with over the past year. As a parent of school-age children, I have an intimate awareness of the basic educational challenges our members are living with at present.

One additional observation is that we have often been segmented as a community. Thus, another one of my goals is to raise discussions that relate to our maintaining a common front in the face of a government or administrative environment that sometimes seeks to divide us from each other. Particularly as we launch into the next round of bargaining, our unity is more essential than ever.