

May 10, 2024

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fellow Trustees,

It is a pleasure to introduce myself and join you on the Board of Trustees. My name is Niki Boytchuk-Hale, and I have been elected by the student body to be a strong advocate and steady facilitator for our best interests. I graduated last spring 2023 with a Bachelor of Fine Art and nearing the completion of a Bachelor of Education. This fall, I will begin a research-based Master of Education in curriculum studies while I serve my term as Rector.

During my five years at Queen's, I have worked for the Alma Mater Society, Undergraduate Admissions, University Relations, and the Human Rights and Equity Office. I recently concluded my term as the Vice Chairperson of the AMS Board where I chaired the Governance Committee and was appointed to the Queen's Journal Advisory Board. Although I did not know it until recently, these experiences all led me to seek the Rectorship. As it is my tenth day in office, I have little to report on and much learning to do.

Transition | I am grateful for a smooth transition from my predecessor and staff in the Office of the University Secretariat and Legal Counsel. I spent the month of April attending meetings alongside Rector Crawford-Lem to learn more about the role and essential partnerships.

Early Days | Thus far, I have enjoyed connecting with the community through presenting at the AMS Awards Gala, participating in the [Agnes Reimagined](#) construction commencement photo shoot, and attending the [PhD-Community Initiative](#) capstone event held at City Hall. These celebratory moments in our community are easy to come by and I look forward to many more throughout my term.

Tricolour Award | During his final weeks in office, Rector Crawford-Lem hosted the 2024 award recipients, guests, and Tricolour Society members at a reception. I attended this special night, which brought our community together to celebrate exceptional student leadership and character. I am delighted to acknowledge their efforts again during the [QUAA Awards Gala](#) and present the award plaques to the recipients when they cross the stage at graduation.

Convocation | This month kicks off convocation season with ceremonies scheduled for May 26 and June 18 – 21. I look forward to experiencing graduation from a new perspective on stage, celebrating the class of 2024, and welcoming the honorary degree recipients. Recently, I was fitted for the Rector robe as alterations are required due to a significant height difference from my predecessor.

Platform | I am proud of my election campaign, which was informed by meetings with over 50 student and University stakeholders. I have big plans that I know I cannot do all alone and will be hiring a student to work part-time hours to help bring this potential off the paper.

- **Communication:** enhance the feedback loop between the Office of the Rector and students.

Using my experience and passion for media, I will reignite the Rector social media platforms and expand into new avenues, like a regular column in our campus newspaper. I invite you all to follow me on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#) for frequent updates.

- **Wellbeing:** improve the holistic safety of students.

Students are looking for clearer dissemination of information, a more physically and digitally accessible campus environment, and a plan for recovery after the budget cuts facing our institution. I will work with campus partners to establish solutions that are responsive to specific needs for students who hail from equity deserving backgrounds.

- **Collaboration:** amplify student advocacy goals.

Take a walk-through campus on any evening or weekend and you will see that study spaces, club rooms, and any corner with an outlet are occupied. Look a little closer and you will notice students are planning conferences addressing sustainable development goals, creating publications that celebrate culture, developing campaigns tackling global issues with on-campus implications, and rehearsing for charity productions that bring joy while financially supporting local non-profit organizations. I am excited to use my role to support this critical work.

I will use these goals to ground my actions moving forward while allowing for necessary flexibility. You can learn more by [reading](#) or [watching](#) my campaign platform. I look forward to working with the Board of Trustees to support student lives and I welcome you to reach out to me if you have any insights to support my goals.

At your service,



Niki Boytchuk-Hale
39th University Rector

T 613-533-2733
rector@queensu.ca