



Hello Presidents,

Happy new year! I hope you're also finding that the commotion on campus is energizing, especially in the new JDUC. And welcome to all the new faces! If you're wondering what a grad student is doing at the undergrad governing body, I'll point you to these two videos – an [introduction](#) to me and [Rector duties](#).

I'd like to highlight that the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (NDTR) is coming up on September 30. More information can be found [here](#) about ways you can spend this day engaging in learning and reflection. This year, Edward the AMS Social Issues Commissioner, and I are developing a heart garden for two locations on campus. This garden is a way of visually displaying the number of residential schools that were once active in Ontario, acknowledging the lasting impact, and showing care for families and survivors. Thank you to everyone who came out last week to paint the hearts orange.

Office | I have recently hired a new Multimedia Producer to support with our photo and video projects for this academic year! I have also hired a Student Leader Development Conference (SLDC) Project Officer who was our first-year intern last year, to help support the planning and organizing of SLDC 2025. Soon, the office will be opening up hiring for our first-year intern. We are excited for the team to grow!

Community Engagement | It's no surprise that orientation has been the biggest event in the books. I have been yet again so impressed with the hundreds of leaders involved in making this possible for incoming students. So far, I've found myself speaking and enjoying ORT leader training, ASUS welcome forum, Tricolour Open House, and the football game. As you plan for your events this semester, you're welcome to send us a note about it so we can hopefully attend!

Board of Trustees | I have no updates, other than the Board and its committee will be meeting during the last week of September.

The Board has regular Open Session meetings four times per year, and community members can request to join in-person or online by sending an email to trustees@queensu.ca. Anyone can also access the [Governance Portal](#) to view the agenda by clicking on the calendar date of the meeting.

Committees | While most committee work dials down during the summer, there were three that persisted.

- **Tricolour Award Selection Review:** We have completed this committee and have recorded changes to the Tricolour Award selection terms of reference. This will be released at the end of this month.
- **Rector Election Policy Review:** the committee has made a great deal of progress and edits to clarify and update important parts of the policy. AMS Assembly and SGPS Council can expect to see the proposed changes for final approval by November.
- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Working Group:** Thank you to everyone for participating in our drop-in painting for the NDTR Heart Garden.

Rector's Digest | This month, I discussed the [impact of rankings](#), and how I personally did not look at any of the rankings when applying to university, but they remain a very important factor globally. While an undergraduate degree isn't the ticket to ride like it used to be, I'd say the opportunity is about the experiences and relationships formed inside and outside of the classroom. The real test of a university is how it shows up for its current students. If we're going to be number one in anything, let it be making sure no one goes hungry here and that every student feels like they belong. That's a ranking I'd put some weight on.

That's all for now! Please reach out to me if you have any questions, need support, or would like to share an experience that can help me convey student voices to the administration. If you'd like to book a meeting or send an event invitation, please contact rector.assist@queensu.ca

At your service,



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Princeps Servusque Es (Be a Leader and a Servant)

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