



## Report to SGPS Council

Hello Councillors,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a restful and fun winter break. I'm wishing everyone a happy and healthy term, filled with speedy ethics approval, productive thesis/dissertation writing, or educational days in the lab and placement – whichever applies!

**Office** | We filmed and posted our [Fall Term Recap](#) video. Watch it to hear highlights of what we did last term.

Nominations have now closed for the Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award and the Selection Committee now has the exciting and difficult job of selecting this year's recipients. This month we will begin our goals for the winter term and look forward to sharing the journey.

**Community Engagement** | I am very excited to let you know that after sending out a student-wide email about a survey seeking the Queen's community experiences and perceptions of generative AI, the student respondent numbers went from 192 to 1,242 undergrad and grads combined. It is crucial for the direction and strategy behind AI at Queen's to be shaped by student voices and so I thank those who completed it. We also are excited to start attending events this term. If you have any events you'd like me to attend, please email us at [rector.assist@queensu.ca](mailto:rector.assist@queensu.ca)

**Board of Trustees** | The Board met in December for our regular quarterly session. I attended all of my committees, and open session. In the Open, I delivered a speech to fellow Trustees and the Senior Leadership team, sharing gratitude to students, staff, and faculty across campus for various initiatives. I also expressed how Queen's need to continue developing as a place where students feel supported, seen, and able to do their best work. This includes the need for more physical spaces, especially as our student population slowly grows. Open session also passed several motions, including the re-appointment of our auditors at KPMG LLP and amendments to the Board of Trustees By-Laws for housekeeping purposes but also to enhance clarity.

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](mailto:trustees@queensu.ca). Anyone can also access the [Governance Portal](#) to view the agenda by clicking on the calendar date of the meeting.

**Committees** | I have no substantial committee updates since the winter break, other than this one reminder:

- **Honorary Degree Selection Committee:** Each year, the Queen's community has a chance to [nominate](#) deserving individuals for an Honorary Doctorate. The next deadline is February 27, 2026, and those successful will be awarded this honour at convocation ceremonies in 2027. We will be meeting this term to start selecting these deserving individuals.

**Rector's Digest** | We are currently working on the January edition of Rector's Digest, which will be out later this month. We will be discussing the Shift Survey to encourage students to fill out once they receive the email.

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](mailto:rector.assist@queensu.ca)

At your service,



**Niki Boytchuk-Hale** (she/her)

**University Rector**

Office of the Rector

*Princeps Servusque Es (Be a Leader and a Servant)*

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