



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the University Rector  
August 13, 2024

Hello Councillors,

I am excited to update you on key items that have been a focus for me this summer. My days continue to be filled with meetings and email correspondences to support students, discussions with the senior leadership team, and participating in working and advisory groups. Generally, I spent the summer preparing for the year ahead by working through my budget, gearing up for my office's move back into the JDUC, and planning some key events and initiatives that address my election campaign platform.

Please note that due to a conflict with my studies, I am not able to attend council meetings during the school year. While I will be in class on Tuesday evenings, I will continue to submit fulsome reports and welcome you to [reach out](#) with questions or to set up a meeting at any point.

**Convocation** | In May and June, I presided over seven ceremonies. It was an honour to play a role in congratulating thousands of graduates and welcoming accomplished honorary degree recipients. As part of my focus on communication, leading up to convocation I teamed up with the [Gazette](#) to introduce myself and the Role of the Rector. Looking ahead, the Registrar has announced the [Fall 2024 schedule](#) and student can apply to graduate through Solus.

**Community Engagement Events** | This summer, I presented two awards at the [QUAA Gala](#) in Toronto and attended the [cancer research gift announcement](#). Both were excellent opportunities to celebrate, connect with, and observe the impactful contribution of our alumni community. I participated in the pride poster-making event hosted by the Yellow House and joined in on the Kingston Pride Parade alongside my peers in the [Faculty of Education GSA](#). I have also been preparing for how I can introduce myself and the resources within the Rector's office during orientation week and beyond. If your faculty has an event that could allot me a few minutes of speaking time, please reach out.

**Responsible Investing Review** | The Principal has established a Review Committee for Responsible Investing to consider a special request asking that the university divest from specific companies conducting business in or with the State of Israel. I chose to accept membership of this committee because of my commitment to represent student needs and voices. The committee is accepting written submissions or in-person presentations for consideration. As updates are made available, they will be posted on the [review committees' webpage](#). I feel the immense gravity of the committees' work and welcome you to be in touch if you have any questions or comments about the process.

**Search Committees** | A key responsibility of the Rector is to support in hiring senior leader positions and for those roles that have major interactions with students. My first search committee has been accompanying the [Vice Principal of](#)

**Culture, Equity, and Inclusion** in finding the next **Ombudsperson**. I am also sitting on the search committee for the next Dean of Education and Associate Vice Principal (Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation). I feel grateful that we have a school that understands the importance of having a student perspective during these decisions. There will be more searches to come during my term and I'll keep you updated on the outcomes as they are made public.

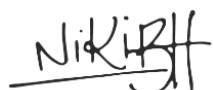
**Communications** | I brought together a focus group of **University Council** members to provide advice on my communications plan. I walked them through my goals and sought feedback on my intended approaches. Included in this was the job description for a staff role, changes to the Rector's website, and access to Queen's enterprise accounts on Sprout Social and Canto. According to the **student communication preference survey**, people are still primarily looking for information via email which has led me to reach out to departments and units that run newsletters. I hope by having a reappearing blurb about the Rector's Office, I'll be able to reach a broader audience. In addition to my monthly reports to AMS Assembly and SGPS council, students can see updates on my socials. Recently, I posted a **video** with 10 things I've been up to this summer. I am thrilled with the level of engagement it has received – specifically its reach of over 2,000 non-followers. This is an important analytic for me because the current follower population is largely alumni and Queen's-related accounts. I have also been working on recovering the old Rector Facebook account, which the Office has been locked out of for over two years. While most students are not utilizing Facebook, a Meta Business Suite is required to connect Sprout Social. Through this process, I've learned that there are no certifications to protect the marks used by my office and will be working with Brand and Legal to obtain proper documents moving forward.

**Rector's Digest** | I launched a column in the Queen's Journal, which now has three contributions, first **introducing the column**, and then discussing topics on **navigating advocacy at Queen's** and **student support systems**. I am preparing for topics to cover this fall and encourage you to let me know if you have any suggestions.

**Board of Trustees** | As a new Trustee, I am taking part in an orientation program run by the Secretariat Office. For my learning, I am reading *An Introduction to University Governance* by Cheryl Foy, meeting with a veteran Trustee for mentorship, and working on modules in the Governance Portal.

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.

At your service,



**Niki Boytchuk-Hale**  
39<sup>th</sup> University Rector

**Connect with me!**

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