

February 26, 2026

Honourable Nolan Quinn
Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security
5th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Dear Minister Quinn,

I have the astute privilege of serving and leading the students of Queen's University as their [Rector](#). While the Provincial Government is conducting consultations regarding the implementation of Bill 33, I have prepared a response to Schedule 3 amendments to the *Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act*.

Part of my role includes sitting on all our governing bodies, including the Board of Trustees, Senate, the Alma Mater Society (AMS) undergraduate Assembly, and the Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS) Council. For this reason, I will focus on what is most familiar and pertinent to my job: the governance of student fees.

Firstly, I commend the government's initiative to regulate fees charged by publicly assisted universities and colleges. Students care about transparency, fairness, and affordability when it comes to post-secondary education. Queen's leadership understands this and has procedures that our students have found suitable and reliable. Here is an outline of our method:

1. There is a thorough means to vet any free-seeking group before they can be considered by the student body. The [AMS](#) and [SGPS](#) each oversee a process which involves submitting a comprehensive package outlining the purpose of the fee and budget, for which a committee approves and rejects submissions. These same committees conduct regular audits of fee-collecting groups.
2. The AMS Assembly and SGPS Council, comprised of elected leaders from every faculty and school, vote to ratify fee-seeking groups for a campus-wide referendum ballot.
3. The student body decides via vote which mandatory and opt-out activity fees get placed on the final slate.
4. The Board of Trustees reviews the fee slates passed by the student vote and holds the final authority to implement them.
5. Queen's Registrar publishes [tuition and ancillary fees](#) for each program of study and clearly outlines the corresponding [policies](#). It is pertinent to note that Queen's does not participate in "fee bundling" and full explanations for every single fee are widely available to ensure students are fully informed on where funding is spent.

Lately, my peers have expressed concern about how Bill 33 may negatively impact their student experience. University students also care about their autonomy, well-being, and taking care of each other. The Queen's way allows for self-governance of student fees that enables our community values, which they want to maintain. The Queen's way offers a robust fee slate that supports wellness through access to peer counsellors, gym facilities, and professional development opportunities. And the Queen's way supports those who need a helping hand with food security services, academic grievance and legal counsel, and public transit.

I respectfully urged the Ministry to consider the importance of student autonomy and the existing frameworks that have proven effective at institutions like Queen's. Any regulatory changes must preserve these principles while enhancing transparency and affordability. Doing so will empower students and strengthen our post-secondary system.

Sincerely,



Ms. Niki Boytchuk-Hale, OCT
39th Rector
Queen's University

T 613-533-6000 ext. 76419
rector@queensu.ca

John Deutsch University Center (JDUC)
2nd Floor, Room 224
87 Union Street
Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 2N9

With support from:

Arani Hiritharan, BHSc'27
President, Health Science Society

Claire Nolli, BNSc'27
President, Nursing Science Society

Cynthia Charette, PHE'26
President, Physical Health Education & Kinesiology Student Association

Gabriel Mollot-Hill, Law'26
President, Law Students' Society

Dawood A. Tullah, Law'27
President, Society of Graduate & Professional Students

Emily Gluckman, ConEd'26
President, Concurrent Education Students' Association

Hugh Tuckwell, Comp'26
President, Computing Students' Association

Jana Amer, BHSc '26
President, Alma Mater Society

Jordan Belainsky, Sci'27
President, Engineering Society

Prem Mehta-Spooner, Com'26
President, Smith Commerce Society