

Fellow Trustees,

It is dark at 4:30 pm, and exams are almost upon us. Students are hunkering down in their favorite study spots and ready to finish the term strong!

**University Council** | I had the pleasure of being invited to attend University Council in November. The University Council is an ambassadorial body of alumni that meets once a year on campus for a weekend of programming and discussion. This year's theme was Community Engagement, and we heard from Dr. Wendy Craig, Special Advisor to the Principal on Community Engagement. We also heard from some of Dr. Craig's summer students who shared their research experiences and facilitated breakout rooms with Councilors to explore what community engagement looks like on campus and in communities where our alumni are present. Principal Patrick Deane also shared an update on the University Strategy, of which one of the goals is embedding Queen's in the community by building deliberate, strategic, and mutually beneficial relationships with communities in Kingston and beyond.

**Housing Crisis Committee** | The AMS, through its governing student assembly, struck a new Housing Crisis Committee to better understand the challenges students are facing when seeking accommodations in Kingston and how the University, along with the city and student groups can work to address some of these challenges. As Chair, I have been working on creating terms of reference, as well as a work plan that will inform further discussions. The committee intends to publish a report by the end of the academic year (2024) detailing what we have heard from undergraduate students and outline our recommendations to the University community. It is also our hope that the committee will act as a platform to bring innovative and student-centered approaches to the housing crisis in Kingston.

**Convocation** | November 13-17 was Fall convocation. In concert with the Principal and Provost, I presided over eight ceremonies where we welcomed back students from all faculties, from undergraduate to Ph.D. Queen's also welcomed

three new Honourary Degree recipients, Dr. Suzanne Fortier, Dr. m NourbeSe Philip, and the Right Honourable Joseph Clark. Congratulations to all our graduates!

As always, if you have any questions or comments, feel free to send me an email at [rector@queensu.ca](mailto:rector@queensu.ca) or give me a call at (343) 363-2150.

At your service,



Owen Crawford-Lem  
University Rector