

Fellow Trustees,

The snow has started to fall, and so have students started to hunker down for final assignments and exams. Here is an update on the work I have been engaging in.

**Housing Update** | After discussion with the student project team and additional support received by the Housing and Ancillary Services here at Queen's, the decision has been made to keep the survey open until at least the beginning of next term. I hope to capitalize on students returning to Kingston from being at home over the holidays and use the juxtaposition felt as a call to action. At over 700 responses so far, here is some information you may find interesting.

- The average rent in Kingston for a Queen's student is \$738/month (not considering the number of rooms, rent for a single bedroom is closer to \$1,100)
- On average, male-identifying students pay \$780/month whereas female-identifying students pay \$56 less, an average of \$724/month
- International students pay the highest rent with it costing an average of \$790/month
- Proximity matters to students –individuals who indicated they live less than a 5-minute walk to Stauffer Library pay \$90 more than those who indicated they live more than a 20-minute walk to campus
- 89% of respondents indicated they have requested repairs from their landlord
- Many of the respondents indicated they receive at least *some* financial support to supplement rent payments but 35% indicated they do not receive *any* financial aid

This is just a snapshot of some of the preliminary information we have collected but a robust data analysis will allow us to draw further and more meaningful insights once the survey has closed. This also serves as a timely reminder that the conversations and decisions made around enrollment/university growth and campus planning need to be discussed with the downstream impacts of an already challenging and constrained housing market for students in mind.

### ***Life on Campus***

*Convocation* | Fall convocation was back in Grant Hall, and we were able to welcome many Honorary Degree recipients and their families to campus.

*Homecoming* | As I'm sure many of you know, Homecoming was a success, both on the alumni side and student side. We saw lower than expected crowds on Aberdeen and the surrounding streets and students and guests, for the most part, were respectful of each other and the community. During the day I had the chance to travel to the Kingston Police's headquarters where I saw their command center that was monitoring and responding to unsanctioned gatherings, and I was impressed with their coordination and concern for student safety. In the afternoon and

evening, I attended the football game and Tricolour Guard dinner, which was a fantastic opportunity to meet alumni young and old.

*University Council Annual General Meeting* | The AMS, SGPS, QSAA, and I were invited to speak to University Council where we shared our goals, challenges, work to date, and ways in which Council may assist us in fulfilling our mandate. University Council showed us immense support and we have since followed up and are beginning to solidify further plans for collaboration.

*Rector Advisory Committee* | Recently, the first Rector Advisory Committee was held, co-chaired by Lon Knox and Heather Cole from the Secretariat and Office of the Principal respectively, with membership including those from the AMS, SGPS, Office of the Ombuds, and a former Rector. This was a chance for me to bring concerns, patterns, and trends and I look forward to meeting with them again in the new year to continue bringing strength and stability to the Office of the Rector.

*Queen's Day at Queen's Park* | At the time of this meeting, I will have traveled to Queen's Park in Toronto to join University and student leaders to help legislators better understand Queen's goals and to better align priorities with ongoing work. I look forward to using this as an opportunity to amplify student voices through the work the University has been doing and to better understand the relationship between the Ontario Government and higher education in the province.

### ***Life off Campus***

*United Way KFL&A* | Trustees might remember my interest in intentional community engagement and strengthening ties within the community through, in part, my involvement with the United Way KFL&A. Recently, I, along with a student volunteer, finished their community investment program where we virtually toured 4 partner agencies to ultimately provide funding recommendations to the United Way Board of Directors. Not only was this a great opportunity to engage in the community, but it was also a fascinating look outside the 'university bubble' and will provide much-needed perspective as I continue to go about my work on and off campus.

**Closing Remarks** | After 9 months in the role and more than a quarter through my anticipated 2-year term I am incredibly thankful for the support of the Board, student groups, administration, and community members that have helped me in laying the groundwork for future success as my term continues. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. I am reachable at [rector@queensu.ca](mailto:rector@queensu.ca) or (343) 363-2150.

At your service,



Owen Crawford-Lem  
University Rector