



Fellow Trustees,

I would like to first introduce myself to those I have not had the pleasure of connecting with before our May meetings. My name is Owen Crawford-Lem (he/him), and I am currently finishing my 3rd year of Politics and Sociology with a Certificate in Business. Since my first year, I have been an active member of the Queen's community, whether it be intramurals, student government, leading a conference, or creating pathways for students to connect with alumni. I can truly say Queen's is home, and I am excited to care for it with a group of like-minded individuals.

Transition | While the Office has been vacant for the last year, it is with great pride that I can say that the lights are once again on. Terri Flindall and the University Secretariat have and continue to be vital in this transition, ensuring the Office has the resources needed to serve students and the University. The Office of the Rector is also in the middle of a physical move. The revitalization of the JDUC has meant a temporary relocation to the LaSalle building with a final destination of the Rideau building. Situated across from the David C. Smith House residence in the heart of the residence community, I hope this will allow first-year students to engage with the Office in ways that were inaccessible before. The process of meeting with University senior leadership, Vice-Principals, Vice-Provosts, faculty Deans, and prominent student groups is underway. I have also had the pleasure to meet with many of my fellow Trustees in becoming familiar with the duties of the Board and its committees. Over the summer, I will be in Kingston, continuing my learning and strategizing for the commencement of the academic year in September.

Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Awards | One of the responsibilities of the Office is to chair the Agnes Benidickson Tricolour award selection committee and organize the ceremony. In the absence of a Rector, the Alma Mater Society President and Director of Marketing co-chaired the committee and selected four very deserving candidates. Ishita Aggarwal - Meds'23, Morgan Lehtinen – Artsci'16 & PhD'22, Max Moloney – Artsci'20 & MSc'22, and Alyth Roos - Artsci'22 are this year's winners selected from a pool of over 30 nominees. Please join me in congratulating this year's winners and recognizing their commitment to Queen's. I look forward to chairing the committee in the coming years and organizing a night of recognition and celebration for the winners and their loved ones.

Priorities | With a full-scale return to in-person activities and a 'new normal' planned for September, I anticipate a busy year. Quarterly, I will provide an update on the Office's work as well as trends and patterns in the student experience that have been brought to my office or observed in my work. The Office of the Rector is afforded a unique opportunity to be involved in university governance from 40,000 feet while firmly having two feet planted on campus. Using this perspective and a student-centric approach, I aim to focus on three key areas.

Students and the University | Being the primary interaction students have, the relationships with the University are key. This means continuing a commitment to mental health resources on campus, working towards a campus free from sexual violence, and ensuring student needs are actively being met. This priority is comprised of projects and

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relationships aimed at creating a Queen's that is diverse and inclusive, allowing every student to feel safe and at home while spending their time with us.

Students and the Community | The relationship between Kingston and Queen's has been arduous and fraught with miscommunication. I hope to continue the University's work to exemplify the incredible students that give back to the community and the social and economic impact Queen's has on the region. I plan to facilitate and participate in open conversations surrounding street parties, the University District Safety Initiative, and student behaviour, ensuring student safety is at the heart of all measures put in place. Student housing is another priority, as I know it has been in past years. This is a joint priority recognized by all levels of the Queen's community. In conjunction with the AMS, Housing Resource Center, and other community stakeholders, we will work to understand the rise in price and decline in overall quality. This will lead us to viable, sustainable recommendations that address the concerns of students, Kingston residents, landlords, and the local governing bodies.

Students and the Rector | The two prior goals are conditional on the fact that students know who the Rector is and the resources available to them. Laura Devenny, the AMS Secretary of Internal Affairs, recently published a piece calling the Office of the Rector one of the most underutilized resources available to the Queen's community. In exploring the position and consulting with students, this has been reinforced. The Rector serves as a confidential resource for students, someone who can provide advice or guidance, and advocates for those whose voice may not be as loud. This is only possible if students know who the Rector is and what the Office can do for them. Over the next two years, I plan to bring life back to the Office, reconnect with students, and make certain the Office is truly serving its purpose.

Rector Advisory Committee (RAC) | New this year, the RAC is intended to provide strategic guidance to the Office. Meeting twice a year (or as needed), the committee is comprised of a delegate of the Principal's Office, University Secretariat, 1-2 past Rectors, and student representatives from the AMS and SGPS. This will be a valuable resource and act as a sounding board for the work of the Office.

Final Remarks | It is with great excitement I submit my first report to the Board of Trustees as a fellow member. I look forward to working together and tackling the issues that impact Queen's at its core. If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything, please do not hesitate to contact me at rector@queensu.ca.

At your service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Owen'.

Owen Crawford-Lem
38th Rector of Queen's University
Principes Servusque Es (Be a Leader and Servant)