

December 12, 2025

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fellow Trustees,

As I write this in week 12, students are winding down their activities and locking in to write final papers and study for exams. This time of year always brings a mixed bag of emotions, as it is often the tensest time academically, but the end is in close sight.

Campus life | Here are some bits and pieces of what's happening on the grounds at Queen's.

- Student clubs have been fundraising for local and national charities, such as the Project Red 5K community run for the Heart & Stroke Foundation and the Tricolour Classic Basketball game for cancer research (the Engineers won against Commerce this year, 63-60).
- The AMS, Arts and Science Undergraduate Society, Students of Colour Collective, and the Yellow House came together to run a [cultural talent and fashion show](#).
- The Queen's Debating Union travelled to Halifax for the [Canadian University Debating Championship](#) and reached the grand finals, with five Queen's student receiving awards.
- Student societies, clubs, and services are feeling upset about Bill 33 passing and worried about what it will mean for our operations. Once it becomes clear how the government is implementing the regulations, it will be imperative to gather a group of affected leaders to disseminate information, plan for the upcoming academic year, and provide clear communication about impacts to the Queen's community.

Office | We hosted the [second Student Leader Development Conference](#) on October 4. It was heartening to see so many student leaders from all faculties, years of study, and areas of Queen's governance gather together to develop skills and build a foundation for a good year ahead. We also raised \$419 for the [United Way KFL&A](#). The [Agnes Bendickson Tricolour Award](#) nomination package for 2026 is now live, and the Selection Committee is looking forward to reviewing outstanding nominees in January. We also welcomed two new interns, and they have hit the ground running, helping with logistics for the Tricolour Award, social media listening, and began setting up the groundwork for a new project.

Community Engagement | I had a blast at Homecoming, reconnecting with and meeting new alumni at all the signature events. The highlight was our [JDUC grand re-opening celebration](#), which featured the student band, *Last Call*, a photobooth, cake, self-guided tours of the building, and Tricolour yearbooks and Queen's Journal bound volumes on display. In October we celebrated the [10th anniversary of Dr. Arthur B. McDonald's Nobel Prize in Physics](#) and danced the night away at the Navratri celebration, hosted by the Queen's Indian Student

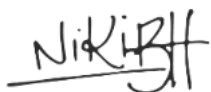
Association. November kicked off with a week of [convocation ceremonies](#) for the last set of 2025 graduates, followed quickly by the student leader panel at the [University Council](#) annual meeting. We talked about what student life is like today, including challenges such as housing affordability and conditions. I then set off to Kings College London to gather with university leaders from across Africa, Europe, and North America to share challenges in the post-secondary education environment, promising research and case studies. I came back to the [Alumni Review Magazine](#) fall issue, featuring a story I wrote about the JDUC and how it has stood as the heart of our campus through generations.

Committee work | I'm happy to report on two exciting committee accomplishments, and flag an upcoming deadline:

- **Rector Election Policy Review Committee:** The AMS Assembly and SGPS Council have now approved the updated policy, and my office team will work on implementing all of the approved changes in the new year to hand off to the AMS policy bank.
- **Indigenous Research Collaboration Day:** The theme for the 9th annual gathering was 'Respectful and Ethical Engagement: Work Held in Good Relationships'. It was a tremendous success, thanks to a hard-working planning group, amazing speakers, and a big turnout of faculty and students. We are now thinking ahead to next year!
- **Honorary Degree Selection Committee:** Each year, the Queen's community has a chance to [nominate](#) deserving individuals for an Honorary Doctorate. The next deadline is February 27, 2026, and those who are successful will be awarded this honour at convocation ceremonies in 2027.

Rector's Digest | This fall I wrote columns on [respectful engagement](#) with truth and reconciliation work, advised students thinking about running in a [campus election](#), and reflected on my experience at the [Magna Charta Universitatum](#).

At your service,



Niki Boytchuk-Hale
39th University Rector

T 613-533-2733
rector@queensu.ca