

May 9, 2025

## REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fellow Trustees,

Campus is quieter as undergraduate students packed up for summer trips and jobs. Many graduate students—like myself—are around through the summer for Teacher Education classes and research. Campus will briefly fill up here over seven days of convocation in May and June.

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

- The PSAC 901 strike from March 10 – April 17 caused significant disruptions to academics this semester. Undergraduate students with teaching assistants and fellows had varying levels of changes, from cancelled classes to unmarked assignments. Particularly, I received the most concerns from students in the Faculty of Arts and Science, whereas other Faculties and Schools smaller in size were able to be nimbler in their reaction to the labour disruption. Graduate student workers eventually voted to ratify a new collective agreement and got back to work in the final few days of the term.
- The JDUC is back online! The occupants are settling in and I'm excited about seeing and feeling how the building supports student life in its full capacity this fall.
- The Queen's community was able to [vote for the Federal election](#) right here on campus. It was an accessible and quick process that supports youth voter turnout.

**Office** | The best decision I made this year was hiring a team. I onboarded a Communications & Engagement Officer (Pungavi), Multimedia Producer (Dylan), and First Year Intern (EJ) last fall. They have each been instrumental in helping me achieve my goals. Our primary focus has been digital communication strategies and in-person events. We recently hid [Cogro coffee club stickers](#) around campus to cheer up students during exams and hosted the [Tricolour Award reception](#).

Coming up, we will be launching two review committees for the Tricolour Award selection process and the Rector Election Policy, making updates to the Rector webpage, and planning for the second Student Leader Development Day.

**Community Engagement** | There is always an event to attend at Queen's. Some highlights that we have attended since my last report include the Varsity Team Colour Awards, Black Farewell hosted by the Social Issues Commission, Iftar dinner with Queen's Muslim Students Association, and the AMS Awards Gala. Big shoutout to Terri Flindall for winning the AMS Staff Award this year for her outstanding commitment to supporting students at Queen's.

**Committee work** | Those award committees I mentioned in my last report have concluded and I have started a new committee out of the Provost Office. Other committees are winding down and I look forward to speaking about the outcomes soon.

- **Margret Hooey Governance Award** – Congratulations to Senator Lucas Balog for being this year's deserving winner.
- **Michael Condra Outstanding Student Service Award** – Congratulations to Fatima Couto, Hanna Knowles, and Stacy Shane.
- **The Principal's Review Committee for Responsible Investing** – as you're aware, the committee has dissolved, and the Board has voted on the matter. I published a **letter** to students leading up to the announcement.
- **NEW: Graduate Funding Review Committee** – this taskforce has been struck by the Provost to thoroughly examine the range of funding mechanisms available to graduate students at Queen's University, and make recommendations regarding potential changes to enhance equity, aligned with the university's goals in I-EDIAA.

**Rector's Digest** | I contributed a total of 10 times to Volume 152 of the Queen's Journal. Many thanks to Sarah Eklove, Opinions Editor, and Allie Moustakis, Editor-in-Chief for their support! My last piece discussed the **Bicentennial Vision**. I have no plans to stop and look forward to working with the new Masthead!

At your service,



**Niki Boytchuk-Hale**  
39<sup>th</sup> University Rector

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