Queen's UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

May 8, 2026

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fellow Trustees,

The regular academic year has come to an end, which means convocation season is almost upon us! There are more ceremonies this spring than last to accommodate a growing student population.

On a personal note, my first Board meeting was two years ago now—when I was 10 days into the role. Aside from being in disbelief that time has elapsed to such an extent, it is now fitting to share that I will continue my term as Rector for a third year as I start a PhD this September. I was never sure if I would go beyond the traditional two-year tenure, but I feel the same level of excitement for the work, with the added benefit of experience and strong relationships with the student body and administration. I look forward to soaking in one more year in this incredible role and transitioning the 40th Rector once elected.

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

- Our **Relay 4 Life** club had another successful event (the 20th year!) and fundraised an astonishing $255,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society to help fund critical research and support families.
- As part of **SDG month** , Queen's hosted the remarkable Dr. Alaa Murabit – I encourage you to watch the **recording here** and learn from the discussion on human security and equity.
- I am pleased to share a decline from previous years in fines handed out by Kingston Police and City of Kingston By-Laws Officers during the March 13-18 University District Safety Initiative and St. Patrick's Day celebrations. In 2026, there were just over $2,500 in fines compared to last year's $45,000.

Office | We published our **winter term recap video**, a practice we've now done four times (twice a year) to keep students informed of our initiatives and build awareness of our resources. In April, we celebrated the new Tricolour Award recipients in a **heartwarming ceremony**, made small progress on addressing the need for **more study spaces on campus,** and published the **new Rector Election Policy**, which will be tested in the coming school year. This summer, our team will be preparing for the third Student Leader Development Conference, connecting with the new cohort of student leaders, and working on internal transition-related files.

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Community Engagement | In addition to many end-of-year award events, I had the pleasure of trying something new: judging the **3-Minute Thesis competition** run by the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs. We also supported the Muslim Student Association in serving an **Iftar meal**, which is a fundamental program to support students and create community during Ramadan.

Committee work | Here are updates from some of the committees I participate in:

- **Joint Communications Working Group**: staff from Queen's, AMS, SGPS, the City of Kingston, Kingston Police, and the local public health unit meet throughout the year to plan communications and harm-reduction for orientation, homecoming, and St. Patrick's Day. I put out a **video** to inform students of the March UDSI, and it organically reached over 27,000 accounts.
- **Margret Hooey Governance Award**: Senator Sakura Koner is this year's deserving winner for her service and leadership.
- **Michael Condra Outstanding Student Service Award:** Congratulations and thank you to Jenna Kring, Academic Advisor for Indigenous Students and Dr. Arunima Khanna, Psychologist and Cross-Cultural Advisor.
- **Board-Senate Advisory Committee:** the annual retreat planned by this committee was very fruitful. Senators and Trustees heard success stories from a panel of faculty members and then discussed current challenges with our system and opportunities to improve and expand upon interdisciplinary work.

Rector's Digest | The last two columns of this term dug into the **Alto highspeed rail plans** and a history of the **seven women** who have been Rector.

At your service,



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39th University Rector

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