Queen's UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

October 2, 2026

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fellow Trustees,

I've now entered a season of "lasts" as my tenure is coming to an end at the conclusion of this academic year. I will savour the things I love most about this job, like the student leader conference and connecting with students around campus. I'll also be met with new contests, like juggling a PhD course load with committee work. The AMS and SGPS have set dates, as approved by their governing bodies, for the election of the 40th Rector. I look forward to supporting the transition of the next Rector after the student body votes on November 25 – 26.

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

- Queen's administration and approximately 1,200 student leaders ran a very successful orientation program for the class of 2030. Events ranged from taming and dance parties, to academic info sessions with deans and scavenger hunts. Many traditions continue, like the grease pole and new innovations have also emerged to address the desires of our modern student body.
- Now that the new OSAP framework is in place, students are sharing concerns about additional loans and the burden of long-term debt after graduation.
- I'm devastated to include sympathies for a second student leader death in 2026. Sam Lowe tragically passed away while doing something he loved (mountain climbing) and is leaving behind a legacy not only at Queen's, but in the Canadian university system. Amongst many accomplishments, Sam co-founded the **Black Undergraduate Coalition**, which recently hosted a conference at UofT with nearly 300 students from 25 schools. Sam is missed by many friends on campus and Queen's alumni.

Office | At the time of writing this, the Student Leader Development Conference (SLDC) is a few days away, on Sept. 18 – 19. Tickets sold out and we are thrilled to welcome speakers including Dan Tisch and Bob Rae, to support the skills of student trustees, senators, and student society executives and councils across campus. This summer we also created a municipal election awareness campaign featuring information on **how to register**, **responsibilities of the positions up for election**, and **candidate information**. All this info and more can be **found on my website**. Since the retirement of Terri Flindall—the longtime administrative support and rock for the Rector—in July, I've been spending a considerable amount of time making proposals to fill her role, which was not rehired in the University Secretariat's Office. I hope to have a resolution soon

as it is a highly necessary portfolio and at the heart of Queen's commitment to student leadership, voice in governance, and wellbeing.

Community Engagement | Over the summer I attended the **Black at Queen's: Post Grad event** in Toronto, where around 100 alumni spanning many generations gathered. The event organizers, who are recent alumni, did a fantastic job at creating a meaningful space of connection and Colin Lynch served as an engaging keynote speaker. Also in Toronto, I presented students Yehonatan Shakarghi and Natalie Kearn, with **awards for distinctive volunteer work and outstanding leadership**, as adjudicated by the alumni association. Spring convocation was another joyous success, spread between Grant Hall and the Slush Puppie Place. As student numbers grow, so do the number of graduates crossing the stage, which has been adding additional logistics and time commitment for everyone involved in making it happen.

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

- **Housing Demand and Housing Strategy Oversight Committee:** This committee has now wrapped up its work, and the university will publish a report sometime this fall.
- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Working Group:** The **OII website** outlines the programing on and around September 30th, as part of our commitment to acknowledge the impact of residential schools and honour victims and families. New this year, I worked with the Registrar to include information in our SOLUS student schedules in place of our regular class calendar.
- **Brand Strategy Steering Committee:** For the first time in history, Queen's is creating a brand strategy. Students were contacted to complete an online survey and/or participate in a focus group. Mammoth collected and analyzed a tremendous volume of data that felt very true to Queen's and is now working on the next phase.
- **Remembrance Day Planning:** Our small planning group meets throughout the summer and early fall to coordinate this important ceremony on campus. My focus has been engaging student leaders in attending the event, as well as including student voices, connected to military service, during the program.
- **Accessibility, Community, and Equity (ACE) Committee:** The ACE Committee is a new senior-level committee at Queen's dedicated to advancing accessibility, fostering community engagement, and promoting equity across campus. ACE has replaced the Senior Accessibility Advisory Committee (SAAG) and its purpose is to shape accessibility and ensure that the perspectives of people with disabilities are centered in institutional decision-making. My membership on SAAG is transferring to ACE, and the committee is also **recruiting four more students to join**.

Rector's Digest | May's issue spoke to the **business of Queen's governance**, including the responsibilities held between Senate and Board, and how decisions are made. My **June column** spoke about my hope for humanities, inspired by convocation speeches. For the **First Year in Focus (July) issue of *The Journal,*** Arabella took over the column to provide her recent insights

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after completing her first year at Queen's. And for August, I highlighted the **voting power of Queen's students** in this highly contested Kingston municipal election.

At your service,



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