

Office of the Rector
Report to Assembly
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Hello Presidents,

We're halfway through the summer and I am excited to update you on key items that have been a focus for me this month. My days continue to be filled with meetings and email correspondences to support students, discussions with the senior leadership team, and participating in working and advisory groups. I am preparing for the year ahead by working through my budget, gearing up for my office's move back into the JDUC, and planning some key events and initiatives that address my election campaign platform.

As what I am sure will always be the case, there is much more ongoing beyond this list that is not able to be shared at this stage. For this reason, I will always communicate as openly as possible and ask for your confidence in knowing I am advocating for and advancing student experience goals in all my actions and at all times.

Convocation | Spring ceremonies have come and gone. It was an honour to play a role in congratulating thousands of graduates and welcoming accomplished honorary degree recipients. As part of my focus on communication, leading up to convocation I teamed up with the [Gazette](#) to introduce myself and the Role of the Rector. I also collaborated on a video with the [Alumni account](#) highlighting our newest grads on social media.

Community Engagement Events | I presented two awards at the [QUAA Gala](#) in Toronto and attended the [cancer research gift announcement](#). Both were excellent opportunities to celebrate, connect with, and observe the impactful contribution of our alumni community. I participated in the pride poster-making event hosted by the Yellow House and joined in on the Kingston Pride Parade alongside my peers in the [Faculty of Education GSA](#). I have also been planning for how I can introduce myself and the resources within the Rector's office during orientation week and beyond. If your faculty has an event that could allot me a few minutes of speaking time, please reach out. Thank you to those who have already booked me in!

Responsible Investing Review | The Principal has established a Review Committee for Responsible Investing to consider a special request asking that the university divest from specific companies conducting business in or with the State of Israel. I chose to accept membership of this committee because of my commitment to represent student needs and voices. As part of this process, the review committee will arrange for a delegation of the campus group that submitted the request to present it for further consideration and coordinate additional consultations to ensure the committee considers the full range of perspectives and views from across the campus community. This work will occur over a period beginning this summer and concluding during the next academic year. I feel the immense gravity of the work ahead and welcome you to be in touch if you have any questions or comments about the process.

Search Committees | A key responsibility of the Rector is to support in hiring senior leader positions and for those roles that have major interactions with students. My first search committee has been accompanying the [**Vice Principal of Culture, Equity, and Inclusion**](#) in finding the next [**Ombudsperson**](#). I feel grateful that we have a school that understands the importance of having a student perspective during these decisions. There will be more searches to come during my term and I'll keep you updated on the outcomes.

Communications | I brought together a focus group of [**University Council**](#) members to provide advice on my communications plan. I walked them through my goals and sought feedback on my intended approaches. Included in this was the job description for a staff role, changes to the Rector website, and access to Queen's enterprise accounts on Sprout Social and Canto. According to the [**student communication preference survey**](#), people are still primarily looking for information via email which has led me to reach out to departments and units that run newsletters. I hope by having a reappearing blurb about the Rector's Office, I'll be able to reach a broader audience.

That's all for now! Please reach out to me if you have any questions, need support, or would like to share an experience that can help me convey student voices to the administration.

At your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niki BH' with a stylized flourish underneath.

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