

Office of the Rector
Report to Assembly
Niki Boytchuk-Hale
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Hello Presidents,

It is a pleasure to introduce myself and join you on the AMS Assembly. My name is Niki Boytchuk-Hale, and I have been elected by the student body to be a strong advocate and steady facilitator for our best interests. I graduated last spring 2023 with a Bachelor of Fine Art and nearing the completion of a Bachelor of Education. This fall, I will begin a research-based Master of Education in curriculum studies while I serve my term as Rector.

During my five years at Queen's, I have worked for the Alma Mater Society, Undergraduate Admissions, University Relations, and the Human Rights and Equity Office. I recently concluded my term as the Vice Chairperson of the AMS Board where I chaired the Governance Committee and was appointed to the Queen's Journal Advisory Board.

Transition | I am grateful for a smooth transition from my predecessor and staff in the Office of the University Secretariat and Legal Counsel. I spent the month of April attending meetings alongside the 38th Rector Crawford-Lem to learn more about the role and essential partnerships.

Community Engagement | Thus far, I have enjoyed connecting with the community through presenting at the AMS Awards Gala, participating in the [Agnes Reimagined](#) construction commencement photo shoot, and attending the [PhD-Community Initiative](#) capstone event held at City Hall. I am absent for tonight's meeting as I'm traveling to present two awards at the [QUAA Gala](#) in Toronto. These celebratory moments in our community are easy to come by and I look forward to many more throughout my term. Please keep me in mind and don't hesitate to reach out with your events or programming and I will make every effort to attend when possible.

Board of Trustees | During my tenth day in office, I attended my first Board session. As Rector, I serve as a Trustee on almost all [committees](#), including University Culture, External Relations and Development, Finance, Assets, and Strategic Initiatives, Governance and Nominating, and Board-Senate Advisory. In addition to my involvement in closed session, I submit a quarterly report and present oral remarks during open session. The open session agenda and minutes are accessible on the [Governance Portal](#). For future in-person or virtual attendance, email the Queen's Secretariat's Office at trustees@queensu.ca.

Convocation | This month kicked off convocation season with ceremonies scheduled for May 24 and June 18 – 21. I look forward to experiencing graduation from a new perspective on stage, celebrating the class of 2024, and welcoming the honorary degree recipients. Particularly, I am pleased to have had President Rocchi and President Matiss attend for my official Rector Installment where they robed me on behalf of undergraduate and graduate students.

Platform | I am proud of my election campaign, which was informed by meetings with over 50 student and University stakeholders. I have big plans that I know I cannot do all alone and will be hiring a student to work part-time hours to help bring this potential off the paper. I will use these goals to ground my actions moving forward while allowing for necessary flexibility. You can learn more by [reading](#) or [watching](#) my campaign platform.

- **Communication:** enhance the feedback loop between the Office of the Rector and students.

Using my experience and passion for media, I will reignite the Rector social media platforms and expand into new avenues, like a regular column in our campus newspaper. I invite you all to follow me on [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) for updates and to share content for your constituents.

- **Wellbeing:** improve the holistic safety of students.

Students are looking for clearer dissemination of information, a more physically and digitally accessible campus environment, and a plan for recovery after the budget cuts facing our institution. I will work with campus partners to establish solutions that are responsive to specific needs for students who hail from equity deserving backgrounds.

- **Collaboration:** amplify student advocacy goals.

Students and faculty are busy planning conferences addressing sustainable development goals, creating publications that celebrate culture, developing campaigns tackling global issues with on-campus implications, and rehearsing for charity productions that bring joy while financially supporting local non-profit organizations. I am excited to use my role to support critical work already underway.

I want to emphasize that I am here to support you, both in your respective roles and as ordinary students. The Rector is a unique [role](#) and I encourage you to become familiar with it so you can effectively guide fellow students or utilize the resources available within my office when needed. If you have not done so already and would like to connect for an introductory meeting this summer, please book [here](#).

At your service,



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39th University Rector

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