

May 21, 2024

REPORT TO THE SGPS COUNCIL

Hello Councillors,

It is a pleasure to introduce myself and join you on the SGPS Council. 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 will be traveling to Toronto later this month to present two awards at the [QUAA Gala](#). 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 kicks off convocation season with ceremonies scheduled for May 26 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 President Rocchi and President Matiss attend for my official Rector Installment where they will robe 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](#), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#) for frequent updates.

- **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.

At your service,


Niki Boytchuk-Hale
39th University Rector

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