Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the University Rector
October 20, 2026

Report to SGPS Council

Hello Presidents,

Hope you all enjoyed a restful reading week! I have prepared this report prior to our break on October 6.

Office | The Student Leader Development Conference took place on Sept. 18 – 19 and was well attended by undergraduate and graduate student leaders on the Board, Senate, student societies, and Student Affairs. Our municipal election awareness campaign continues, with two more videos about candidates' and a general "get out to vote" message. Our office is also working on options to support the AMS Foodbank, collecting data on research grad student working spaces, preparations for the Tricolour Award, and meetings with clubs, student leaders, and individual students seeking support.

Community Engagement | My focus the last couple of weeks has been the Board of Trustees and its many committees. Outside of that, I sat down with ***The Gazette*** to talk about the Heart Garden, which was initially created last year to honour children who attend Ontario residential schools. We re-planted the hearts, and they will be outside the JDUC until winter arrives. I helped welcome new graduate students at the SGSPA welcome night and also recently visited Ottawa with a group of graduate students researching the future of AI and supercomputing, and as always, it was great to see the many Queen's alumni working on Parliament Hill.

Board of Trustees | The Board gathered on October 2 – 3. The Board received and discussed a number of annual reports, including on Non-Academic Misconduct and Sexual Violence & Sexual Assault. We approved updates to the Board-Senate Advisory Committee Policy (notably, it will now be co-chaired), the Capital Projects Approval Policy (increasing the threshold for approval), and the Contract and Invoice Signing Authority, Approval, and Execution Policy (to align with the new thresholds for capital projects). Finally, in the Open session, we approved the draft audited consolidated financial statements. Queen's strong investment outcomes, coupled with the Province of Ontario's tuition increase and increase in operating grant funding, led us to an overall surplus of $160.4 million ($16 million before investment income). Since investment results can fluctuant considerably year to year, Queen's does not count on this performance for most of its operations. Overall, this is a great news story, and I look forward to having discussions with the administration about how we can make strategic decisions to improve student learning and life on campus.

The Board has regular Open Session meetings four times per year, and community members can request to join in-person or online by sending an email to **trustees@queensu.ca**. Anyone can also access the **Governance Portal** to view the agenda by clicking on the calendar date of the meeting. You can learn about the basics of the Queen's Board by **watching this playlist.**

Committees | Here are all my available committee updates:

- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Working Group:** There was a big turnout at the **community Sacred Fire** and many opportunities to engage in learning and reflection across campus on Sept. 30 and beyond.
- **Joint Communications Working Group:** Each year leading up to Homecoming and Halloween, Queen's engages a group from our school (communications, student affairs, security, etc.) and external partners, such as the City of Kingston, police, and public health. Over the last several weeks, we've been connecting on details related to the **University District Safety initiative (UDSI)** dates and the key messages for social media and in-person community engagements. Please note that the UDSI will be in effect from October 15 – November 1 and the pier will be closed on the weekends.

Rector's Digest | My ***September column in The Journal*** articulates some top qualities for anyone considering the 40th Rector election race.

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. If you'd like to book a meeting or send an event invitation, please contact **rector.assist@queensu.ca**

At your service,



Niki Boytchuk-Hale (she/her)

University Rector
Office of the Rector

Princeps Servusque Es (Be a Leader and a Servant)

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