

Fellow Trustees,

It is with mixed emotions that I submit my final report to the Board as Rector. As I reflect on my years at Queen's, I am reminded of the importance Queen's, as an institution, holds in the lives of the young people who study and live here. I am also constantly reminded that as much as students are an integral part of Queen's, Queen's plays an equally important role in supporting the success of its students.

On a personal note, I want to thank each and every one of you for your service to the University and your willingness to engage with issues important to the student body. Sitting at a Board table for the first time can be a daunting experience, but the kindness and collaboration I experienced made all the difference, both in my ability to be an active member of the Board and to advocate for students effectively.

**Rector Election** | I am pleased to share that Niki Boytchuk-Hale has been elected Queen's 39th Rector. With her term beginning May 1, 2024, I look forward to seeing everything she accomplishes in the role. Running on a platform of communication, wellbeing, and collaboration, Niki will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position and will be a strong addition to the Board.

**Principal's Reception for Student Leaders** | In January, I was thrilled to partner with the Principal's Office to bring together student leaders from across the university for an evening of appreciation and discussion. Student leaders often go unrecognized for the time and passion they bring to their roles. From planning orientation to traveling across the country to represent their faculty and Queen's, this evening offered an opportunity to recognize and thank student leaders for their important work. Joined by Provost Evans, this evening also provided an opportunity to discuss the current challenges and opportunities facing students and how communication between the University and students may be

strengthened. I was very pleased with the constructive discussions and look forward to making this a semesterly occurrence.

**Student Engagement with the Budget Deficit** | As Queen's continues to work to bring the budget into structural balance, I had the opportunity to spend a few hours in the Queen's Centre talking to students about the deficit, answering any questions I could, and soliciting feedback and questions in anticipation of a student town hall with the Principal, Provost, and VP Finance and Administration. What was clear was that students desire clarity and transparency. Clarity as it relates to future educational offerings and transparency as it relates to the decisions being made to ensure we can emerge from the next few years a stronger, more focused institution that continues to support its students and inspire them to pursue their dreams.

In early February, I moderated a student town hall with senior administration, and the same sentiment was clear. It was clear that students want to be reassured that the reasons they decided to come to Queen's in the first place will continue to be why they are proud to call themselves a Queen's alumnus.

**Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award** | This year, four students were selected for the Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award – Meena Waseem, Kyla Gibson, Niki Boytchuk-Hale, and Tara Rezvan. Throughout their time at Queen's, each recipient went above and beyond to contribute positively to the Queen's community while showing exceptional character, leadership, service, and community impact. Please join me in congratulating the four recipients.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, feel free to send me an email at [rector@queensu.ca](mailto:rector@queensu.ca) or give me a call at (343) 363-2150.

At your service,



Owen Crawford-Lem  
University Rector