

Board of Trustees Report to the Senate Highlights from the May 2025 Meeting

Agenda: www.queensu.ca/governanceportal (select May 9, 2025 on the calendar)

The Chair reflected on a challenging year and expressed appreciation for the resilience and engagement of the Queen's community, particularly in how issues were addressed and communicated with the Board. He congratulated incoming Trustees Paul Calluzzo, Amanada Gray, E.J. Kelvin, Chessa Jope, and Emils Matiss, and welcomed the [new Vice-Principal \(Advancement\) Kate Wilson](#) to the meeting. He thanked outgoing student Trustees Reem Al Rawi and Kana Ogawa for their strong contributions, noting the complexity of their roles, and also acknowledged the service of departing Trustees Noor Rahemtulla, Colette Steer, and Vicki Remenda.

He shared that recent discussions with Senators about more frequent Board-Senate interactions were positive, with a plan for the Queen's University Board-Senate Advisory Committee to explore further interactions starting in the 2025–26 academic year.

On the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee, the Board approved:

- [Annual Approval of Policy Statements](#)

On the recommendation of the Finance, Assets, and Strategic Infrastructure Committee, the Board approved:

- [2025-26 Student Ancillary Fees](#)
- [2025-26 Course Related Fees](#)
- [2025-26 Final Operating Budget](#)

On the recommendation of the University Culture Committee, the Board approved:

- [Revisions to the Harassment and Discrimination Prevention and Response Policy](#)

The Board also received verbal reports from the Chairs of the External Relations and Development; Investment; and Governance and Nominating Committees.

Principal's Remarks

Verbal Report

Principal Deane reflected on the May Board sessions as a time to close one academic year and prepare for the next, acknowledging challenges faced in 2024-25 while highlighting institutional achievements and momentum. He noted the impact of recent federal and provincial elections on research funding and policy, expressed concern over threats to academic freedom internationally, and emphasized the importance of defending open inquiry. Financial pressures and their community impact were recognized, with a call for shared commitment moving forward. He highlighted the Bicentennial Vision as a key guide, with a working group preparing the final draft for fall discussion. Addressing recent labour disruptions, he stressed the need to rebuild trust and collegiality. Principal Deane also welcomed Kate Wilson, the new Vice-Principal (Advancement), Queen's alumna, and former University Councillor (2017-21).

Student Reports

Rector

The Rector reflected on the conclusion of the academic term and outlined her focus on research and Rector initiatives during the summer, expressing gratitude to Student Trustees Reem Al Rawi and Kana Ogawa for their collaborative video series that enhanced student engagement with the Board. She acknowledged the challenges posed by the recent PSAC 901 strike and called for renewal and reconciliation, invoking the Mi'kmaq concept of forgiveness as a guiding principle for moving forward. Celebrating the reopening of the John Deutsch University Centre (JDUC) as a significant milestone for student life, she emphasized the importance of fostering strong support systems and a leadership culture that encourages possibility. She concluded by urging reflection and intentionality in Queen's efforts to attract and support exceptional students.

Alma Mater Society (AMS)

AMS President Jana Amer expressed pride in the recent reopening of the JDUC, highlighting it as a vibrant, student-centered space that honors student leadership and affirms their central role at the University. She raised concerns about affordability, food insecurity, and unsafe housing, acknowledging the significant financial pressures many students face, and detailed the AMS's efforts to enhance tenant protections, improve digital resources, and ensure timely, relevant communications on critical issues. President Amer called on Trustees to be visible, engaged, and collaborative with students, stressing the need for clear communication and advocacy for inclusive, student-focused spaces, and invited them to visit the JDUC and AMS initiatives such as the Food Bank to gain a deeper understanding of the student experience and their contributions.

Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS)

SGPS President Dawood Tullah highlighted proposals from his written report emphasizing the need for oversight bodies for student spaces, particularly after a year marked by disruption, and underscored the collective responsibility to uphold Queen's spirit while addressing serious student challenges like housing and food insecurity. He voiced concerns about student safety, especially for those in leadership roles who often become the sole voice during institutional silences, calling for more timely, transparent communication and stronger support for student representatives in times of crisis. President Tullah concluded by commending the Board Chair, Principal Deane, and Provost Evans for their leadership, and expressed gratitude to student leaders Rector Boytchuk-Hale, Kana Ogawa, and Reem Al Rawi for their significant contributions and strengthening student representation on the Board.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is September 26-27, 2025.