

sustainable vision for society. The Vision for Queen's is of a university with a global purpose and broad community impact; one that will prove to be a choice for learners and researchers from diverse background who strive to achieve social and environmental change.

Patrick emphasized how important it was for today's universities to look beyond their own narrow boundaries and seek to have an impact on their local, national or global communities. This focus and resulting impact is what new university rankings are measuring. Patrick explained that the traditional university rankings can be a reliable gauge of where an institution stands in relation to others, nationally and internationally, based on a set of criteria about, for example, student experience and research profile. However, the assessment of what makes a university great is evolving and the recent **Times Higher Education Impact Rankings** measure a university's contribution to the **Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations**. What is significant about this ranking system is that it adjusts the impact data collected from each university for its wealth, size and geographic situation. In other words, it levels the playing field. Queen's participated in the Times Impact Rankings for the first time this year and expects the results in April. Patrick sees this as an opportunity to learn as much as we can about ourselves and chart our academic course accordingly.

RAQ Council encourages members to follow The Conversation and future plans around a new vision for Queen's University.

Photo credit: Bernard Clark

Pension update

The investment return for the plan year ending August 31, 2020 was 7.7% and most retirees received small increases in their monthly pension. Returns to date in the current plan year are strong – 6.4 per cent for the four months ending December 31, 2020.

The Annual General Meeting of the QPP took place on December 9,

members: 4,340 actives, 1,398 deferred vesteds and 2,744 pensioners and survivors. An actuarial valuation of the QPP at that date showed total liabilities of \$2.5 billion, so there was a deficit of \$261,000 million as at that date. At the AGM, an update to the UPP was provided by the chair of the UPP Board of Trustees and the UPP President and CEO. From their comments, it was clear that considerable work had already been done to establish the new jointly sponsored pension plan. Pension Services has confirmed that conversion to the University Pension Plan is still on track for July 1, 2021. The regulatory requirements – CRA registration and approval from the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (the provincial body) are already in place.

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