



INTRODUCTION

(October 2011)

Queen's University at Kingston was created by Royal Charter at the hand of Queen Victoria in 1841. The Royal Charter has been amended many times over the years, most recently in 2011 when the composition of the Board of Trustees and University Council was changed. These changes have been made by the Parliament of Canada which has exclusive jurisdiction over any changes to the Charter of Queen's University.

In order to make the Charter and the multiple amendments to that document more accessible and understandable, we have created a consolidated Royal Charter. The consolidated Charter, which is not a legal document, contains those parts of the original Charter and subsequent amendments by Parliament which have continuing force and validity. The language of the Charter and the amendments has been left in its original form, so there is a mixture of older and more modern language.

If you wish to read the original Charter or any of the subsequent Acts which amended the Charter, you will find those documents in the University Secretariat, Rm 153, Richardson Hall, 613-533-6095, univsec@queensu.ca.

Consolidated Royal Charter Queen's University

	CORPORATE BODY
Preamble	<p>To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:</p> <p>1. Whereas, the establishment of a College within the Province of Upper Canada, in North America, in connection with the Church of Scotland, for the education of youth in the principles of Christian Religion; and for their instruction in the various branches of Science and Literature, would greatly conduce to the welfare of our said Province. And whereas humble application hath been made to us by THE REVD. ROBERT McGILL, Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, and THE REVD. ALEXANDER GALE, Clerk of the said Synod, and the several other persons hereinafter named, to make them a Body Corporate and Politic for the purposes aforesaid and hereinafter mentioned; by granting to them our Royal Charter of Incorporation, and to permit them to use our Royal Title in the name or style thereof. Royal Charter of 1841, Paragraph 1.</p>
A University	<p>2. And We do further Will, Ordain and Grant, that the said College shall be deemed and taken to be an University; and that the Students in the said College shall have liberty and faculty of taking the degrees of Bachelor, Master and Doctor in the several Arts and faculties at the appointed times; and shall have liberty within themselves of performing all Scholastic Exercises for conferring such Degrees, in such manner as shall be directed by the Statutes, Rules and Ordinances of the said College. Royal Charter of 1841, s. 4.</p>
Original Corporators	<p>3. The corporators of the University shall be the members of the board of trustees, the professors, the graduates and the benefactors of the University. S.C., 1912 c. 138 s. 8.</p>
	<p>4. We do for the purposes aforesaid and hereinafter mentioned, really and fully for Us, our Heirs and Successors, make, erect,</p>

<p>General Powers</p>	<p>create, ordain, constitute, establish, confirm and declare by these presents, to be one Body Politic and Corporate in Deed and in name: And that they and their successors, by that name shall and may have perpetual succession as a College – with the style and privileges of an University, for the education and instruction of Youth and Student in Arts and faculties; and shall also have, and may use a Common Seal, with power to break, change, alter or make new the same Seal, as often as they shall judge expedient. And that they and their Successors, by the name aforesaid, shall and may forever hereafter be able, in Law and in Equity, to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all Courts and places whatsoever: and also to have, take, receive, purchase, acquire, hold, possess enjoy and maintain in Law, to and for the use of the said College, any Messuages, Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, of what kind, nature or quality soever, and also that they and their Successors shall have power to take, purchase, acquire, have, hold, enjoy, receive, possess and retain all or any Goods, Chattels, Monies, Stocks, Charitable or other Contributions, Gifts, Benefactions or Bequests whatsoever: and to give, grant, bargain, sell, demise, or otherwise dispose, of all or any part of the same, or of any other property, real, personal, or other they may at any time or times possess or be entitled to, as to them shall seem best for the interest of the said College. Royal Charter of 1841, s. 3.</p>
<p>Power hold property continued</p>	<p>5. The power hitherto vested in the corporation of Queen’s College at Kingston to take, purchase, acquire, have, hold, enjoy, receive, possess and maintain in law, to and for the use of the said College, any messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, goods, chattels, moneys, stocks, charitable or other contributions, gifts, benefactions or bequests whatsoever, shall be continued in and enjoyed by the said corporation. S.C., 1882, c. 123, s. 6.</p>
	<p>6. The said Corporation may acquire, take, receive and hold real or personal estate in any part of Canada, by purchase, gift, devise or otherwise; subject, however, to the laws of any Province in which any real estate so acquired is situated, as to such acquisition and tenure by corporations. S.C., 1889, c. 103, s. 7.</p>
<p>Power to dispose of real estate</p>	<p>7. The Corporation may, from time to time, on any terms it thinks fit, sell, alienate, exchange, demise, let or lease all or such messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments and immovable or leasehold property of or to which it is now or may hereafter be or become seized and possessed or entitled. S.C., 1889, c. 103, s. 8.</p>

	8. The said Corporation may, for the purpose of investment, lend money upon the security of real estate, purchase bonds, or debentures of municipal stock or railway corporations, or Dominion or Provincial stock or securities, and may sell or dispose of any such securities as to it seems advisable. S.C., 1889, c. 103, s. 8
Powers of investment	9. The University may invest its funds in any securities in which life assurance companies are authorized by Parliament to invest. S.C., 1912, c. 138, s. 24.
Affiliation of other institutions	10. The University may admit to affiliation any college instituted for the promotion of the study of theology, literature, medicine, science or arts. S.C., 1912, c. 138, s. 18.
Denominational Restrictions removed	11. The management and discipline of the University shall be in every respect freed from all denominational restrictions S.C., 1912, c. 138, s. 2.
Corporate name changed	12. Corporate name changed to "Queen's University at Kingston". Statutes of Canada, 1912, c.138, s. 1.
French name	13. The name of the University in French is "Université Queen's à Kingston". S.C., 1996, c. 45, s. 6(1).
	TRUSTEES – COMPOSITION
Composition of Board of Trustees	<p>14. The Board of Trustees of the University consists of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Chancellor, the Rector and the Principal who are ex officio members; (b) two faculty members elected by the faculty in accordance with the by-laws of the Board of Trustees ; (c) two staff members elected by the staff, in accordance with the by-laws of the Board of Trustees; (d) two student members elected by students registered in academic programs of the University, in accordance with the by-laws of the Board of Trustees; (e) six individuals elected or appointed by the University Council from time to time, in accordance with the by-laws of the University Council; and (f) not more than ten individuals elected or appointed by the Board of Trustees from time to time, in accordance with the by-laws of the Board of Trustees. <p>S.C., 2011, c. s. 2.</p>

By-Laws	<p>15. The Board of Trustees may make by-laws from time to time, not contrary to the Royal Charter or any Act of Parliament, respecting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) subject to paragraph 14(f), the number of Trustees to be elected or appointed by the Board of Trustees, and their term of office; (b) the manner of election of the faculty, staff and student members of the Board of Trustees referred to in paragraphs 14(b) to (d), and their term of office; (c) the retirement and replacement of members of the Board of Trustees, and the filling of vacancies that may occur from time to time by reason of the death, resignation, or disability of a member of the Board of Trustees, or for any other cause; (d) the establishment and removal of committees of the Board of Trustees, and the membership and powers of such committees; (e) the manner of holding meetings, provision for quorum and voting rights; (f) the making repeal and amendment of the by-laws of the Board of Trustees; and (g) the conduct of all other particulars of the affairs of the Board of Trustees. <p>S.C., 2011, c. s. 2.</p>
	TRUSTEES - POWERS
Appointment of Principal	<p>16. And We further Will that the said Trustees and their Successors shall forever have full power and authority to elect and appoint for the said College a Principal, and such Professor or Professors, Master or Masters, Tutor or Tutors, and such other Officer or Officers as to the said Trustees shall seem meet. Royal Charter of 1841, s. 12 .</p>
Appointment of Vice-Principal	<p>17. The Board of Trustees may appoint a Vice-Principal of the said College, and such Vice-Principal shall, in the absence of the Principal, take the place and discharge the duties of the Principal. S.C., 1882, c. 123, s. 4.</p>
Vice-Chancellor	<p>18. There shall be a Vice-Chancellor of the University, appointed by the Board of Trustees, who may or may not be the Principal. In the absence of the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor shall take his place and discharge his duties. S.C., 1961, c. 85, s. 2.</p>
Power to erect	<p>19. And We further Will that the said Trustees and their</p>

an edifice	Successors shall have full power and authority to erect an Edifice or Edifices for the use of the said College. Royal Charter of 1841, s. 17.
Power to make statutes	20. And We further Will that the said Trustees and their Successors shall have power and authority to frame and make Statutes, Rules and Ordinances touching and concerning the good government of the said College, the performance of Divine Service therein, the Studies, Lectures, Exercises, and all matters regarding the same; the number, residence and duties of the Professors thereof, the management of the revenues and property of the said College, the Salaries, Stipends, provision and emoluments of, and for the Professors, Officers and Servants thereof, the number and duties of such Officers and Servants, and also touching and concerning any other matter or thing which to them shall seem necessary for the well being and advancement of the said College, and also from time by any new Statutes, rules or ordinances to revoke, renew, augment or alter, all, every, or any of the said Statutes, rules and ordinances as to them shall seem meet and expedient. Royal Charter of 1841, s. 19.
Proviso	21. Provided always that the said Statutes, rules and ordinances, or any of them, shall not be repugnant to these presents or to the Laws and Statutes of the said Province. Royal Charter of 1841, s. 20.
Votes of Chairman	22. The chairman of any meeting of the Board of Trustees shall have a deliberative vote and also a casting vote in case of equality of votes. S.C., 1912, c. 138, s. 13.
	SENATE
College Senate Constituted Discipline of Students	23. And we further will, that so soon as there shall be a Principal and one Professor in the said College, the Board of Trustees shall have authority to constitute under their seal the said Principal and Professor, together with three members of the Board of Trustees, a Court to be called "The College Senate," for the exercise of Academical superintendence and discipline over the Students, and all other persons resident within the same, and with such powers for maintaining order and enforcing obedience to the Statutes, Rules and Ordinances of the said College, as to the said Board may seem meet and necessary. Royal Charter of 1841, s. 22.
Proviso	24. Provided always, that so soon as three additional Professors shall be employed in the said College, no Trustee shall be a Member of the said College Senate, but that such Principal and all

	the Professors of the said College shall for ever constitute the College Senate, with the powers just mentioned. Royal Charter of 1841, s. 23.
Convocation	25. The trustees, lecturers, tutors, fellows, graduates and alumni or students, being undergraduates of the said College, shall have power and authority to meet in Convocation for the public conferring of degrees and other honours and distinctions awarded or granted by the College Senate, for the installation of the Chancellor, hereinafter mentioned, Principal, or any Professor duly elected or appointed according to the provisions of the aforesaid Letters Patent, and for such other purposes as the University Council, constituted as hereinafter provided, shall from time to time determine. S.C., 1882, c. 123, s. 8.
Power to confer degrees	26. And We further Will, that whenever there shall be a Principal and four Professors employed in the said College, the College Senate shall have power and authority to confer the degrees of Bachelor, Master, and Doctor, in the several Arts and Faculties. Royal Charter of 1841, s. 24.
Degrees in Divinity	27. The University may confer degrees in Divinity at the instance of its Senate or of any affiliated theological college. S.C., 1912, c. 138, s. 20
By-laws as to degrees	28. The College Senate shall have the power to pass by-laws touching on any matter or thing pertaining to the conditions on which degrees in the several Arts and Faculties may be conferred, whether the said degree be such as are gained in course, or such as are honorary, or whether they be conferred on matriculants of Queen's College or other persons; but any such by-law shall be reported to the first meeting of the Board of Trustees after being passed, and shall cease to be in force if disapproved of by the Board. S.C., 1882, c. 123, s. 7.
Power to pass enactments with regard to Senate	29. The Senate as at present constituted is hereby continued subject to the provisions of this Act, and the Board of Trustees, acting after consultation with the Senate, may pass any enactments in regard to the Senate which the Board thinks proper. S.C., 1912, c. 138, s. 16.
	UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
Powers of the University	30. The University Council, constituted in the manner hereinbefore provided, shall have and may exercise the powers

Council

following, that is to say:

(1) The power of discussing any matter whatsoever relating to the said College, and declaring the opinion of the Council on any such matter;

(2) The power of taking into consideration all questions affecting the well-being and prosperity of the said College, and of making representations from time to time on such questions to the Board of Trustees and the College Senate, or either of the said bodies, who shall consider the same and return to the Council their conclusions thereon;

(3) The power of deciding upon such terms as the Board of Trustees shall propose in writing as to the affiliation of any College or School with the University of Queen's College aforesaid;

(4) The power of determining all matters pertaining to the calling of meetings of the Council and of Convocation, whether the same be annual, adjourned, or special meetings, of fixing the number of members that shall be a quorum for the despatch of business at all such meetings, or any or either of them, and of deciding upon and regulating the mode of conducting its own proceedings and the proceedings of Convocation;

(5) The power of framing a declaration of fidelity to his office on the part of the Chancellor, and of determining what shall be the form of his assent thereto, and also of appointing the ceremonies to be observed at his installation and the manner of their observance;

(6) The power of requiring fees to be paid by the members of the Council as a condition of membership, and by graduates and alumni as a condition of registration or voting as hereinbefore provided: and

(7) The power of framing and passing By-laws touching and concerning all matters whatsoever appertaining to the powers and functions of the Council and the lawful exercise thereof, and also from time to time by new By-laws to revoke, renew, augment or alter any of the said By-laws, as to the Council may seem meet and expedient; Provided always that any such By-laws shall not be repugnant to the Letters Patent aforesaid, or of this Act, or the Laws of the Province of Ontario, or of the Dominion of Canada;

	<p>Provided always, that except as in this Act expressly provided the Council shall not be entitled to interfere in or have any control over the affairs of the University or College. S.C., 1882, c. 123, s. 9.</p>
<p>Power to pass by laws</p>	<p>31. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the University Council of Queen’s University is hereby continued and shall have and exercise the lawful powers and functions held and exercised by it immediately before the coming into force of this provision.</p> <p>(2) The University Council may make by-laws from time to time, not contrary to the Royal Charter or any Act of Parliament respecting</p> <p>(a) the determination of the membership of the University Council;</p> <p>(b) the time for and the manner of election or appointment of the members of the University Council and their term of office;</p> <p>(c) the retirement and replacement of the members of the University Council, and the filling of vacancies that may occur from time to time by reason of the death, resignation, or disability of a member, or for any other cause;</p> <p>(d) the appointment and removal of a Secretary and such other officers as the University Council considers necessary and expedient;</p> <p>(e) the manner of appointment of the Chancellor of Queen’s University;</p> <p>(f) the manner of election of the Rector;</p> <p>(g) the time for and the manner of election or appointment of members of the Board of Trustees by the University Council and their term of office; and</p> <p>(h) the conduct in all other particulars of the affairs of the University Council. S. C., 2001, c. s. 4.</p>
<p>Chancellor</p>	<p>32. (1) The University Council shall, in accordance with its by-laws, appoint a Chancellor of Queen’s University as the highest</p>

	<p>officer of the University.</p> <p>(2) The Chancellor holds office for three years from the date of appointment or until a successor is appointed whichever is later.</p> <p>(3) The Chancellor shall preside at all meetings of the University Council, holding both a deliberative and a casting vote on all motions submitted to any meeting of the University Council.</p>
<p>Rector</p>	<p>33. The students registered in academic programs of the University shall, in accordance with the by-laws of the University Council, elect a Rector to hold office for three years from the date of election, or until a successor is elected, whichever is later. S. C., 2011, c. s. 4.</p>
<p>Intention and meaning of Letters Patent</p>	<p>34. And We Will and by these presents for Us our Heirs and Successors do Grant and declare that these our Letters Patent, or the enrolment or exemplification thereof shall and may be good, firm and valid, sufficient and effectual in the Law, according to the true intent and meaning of the same and shall be taken, construed and adjudged in the most favorable and beneficial sense for the best advantage of our said College, as well in our Courts of Record as elsewhere; and by all and singular Judges, Justices, Officers, Ministers and others, subject whatsoever of Us our Heirs and Successors, any unrecital, non-recital, omission, imperfection, defect, matter, cause, or anything whatsoever, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. Royal Charter of 1841, s. 32.</p>