Margaret Hooey Governance Award

The Award
The Margaret Hooey Governance Award was established in November 2018 by the estate of Margaret Lois Hooey, LL.D. 2002. The award is given to a student enrolled in any degree program at Queen’s University who has made an outstanding contribution to the good governance of the University through work with the Senate or any committee of the Senate.

During her more than 30 years of service at Queen’s, Margaret Hooey, the longtime secretary of Queen’s University, was admired for her dedication to the university as well as the welfare of her colleagues, students, friends, and family. She was a valued adviser to four principals and their administrations, and a trusted mentor to students, staff, faculty, and trustees. She is also credited with playing a key role in shaping Queen’s modern governance system and for being an advocate for the unique form of student government. More than her role as an administrator, she was viewed by student leaders as a mentor and friend. For many of these students, her signature as secretary of the university on their degrees acts as a permanent reminder of her support, professionalism, and kindness.

2019 Recipient
The inaugural recipient of the Margaret Hooey Governance Award is Ms. Afsheen Chowdhury.

Ms. Chowdhury has been a student senator from the Faculty of Education since 2017 and served as both member and co-chair of the Queen’s University Board-Senate Advisory Committee, playing a key role in the planning and running of the 2019 Board-Senate Retreat. Ms. Chowdhury was also a member of the Joint Board-Senate Principalship Search Committee, which required significant dedication, travel, and time away from Queen’s and her studies.

Ms. Chowdhury is also a member of the University Council on Anti-Racism and Equity (UCARE), the Equity Outreach Coordinator for the Concurrent Education Students’ Association, and is the Founder of the CESA Election Mentorship Program.

Ms. Chowdhury’s letters of support mentioned her “thoughtful comments and opinions”, “impressive insights”, and keen interest in Queen’s governance processes. Her nominees noted that she models active commitment to the university and is a champion for all of Queen’s equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives. Several commented that Queen’s is fortunate to be able to benefit from Ms. Chowdhury’s passion and consideration for others, her professional conduct, and enthusiasm and dedication to improving the experience of her fellow students, both on Senate and Senate committees and in her roles on CESA.

The Margaret Hooey Governance Award Committee was unanimous in its decision to present the inaugural award to Ms. Chowdhury and wishes her great success in a future that is filled with promise.