

## York Graduate Students in Education (YGSE)

Meeting: Wednesday March 6, 2024 at 4.30am via Zoom

### ATTENDING:

Sheetal Prasad (Co-Chair), Esther Martinez (Co-chair), Lisa Smith, Aurra Startup, Shayna Brissett-Foster, Melissa Somer, Chloe Jones-Westgarth, Chunlei Liu, Ryan Collis, Ellie VanBerkel, Jenna D'Andrea, Rick Powless, Sonia Martin, Stella Kim, Jessica D'Andrea

Apologies: Marika Kunnas, Mercedes Veselka, Emina Gladstone, Suad Ahmed

### MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Call to Order at 4.34pm
2. Land Acknowledgement led by Sonia Martin, which included the following links:  
<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1370372152585/1581293792285#ucls5>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voXySM-knRc>
3. Roll Call.
4. Vote on the agenda. Approved by unanimous consent.  
Request to move agenda items 10 and 11 to after the Chair's Remarks approved
5. Approval of previous minutes. Approved by unanimous consent.
6. Chair's remarks
  - **a) Congratulations to Melissa!**
  - **b) Grad Exec Meeting (30 Jan)**
    - i) The Dean was present to answer questions about the budget, whether use of the [SHARP](#) budgeting model is causing a deficit and future plans for the Program to work around this.
      - Costs of the program: Revenues include over \$1million combined (visas), Government supports (SMA 3) -> \$3 million. Total 4 million. Expenses include teaching expenses of \$2.5million, other expenses \$400k. Currently \$2.8million in debt = deficit SHARP contribution is \$2.5million (undergrad is also in deficit) due to BEd becoming a two year course.
      - No clear answer about whether the SHARP model is causing the deficit.
      - Making professional masters programs to offset - activities that can make financial impact (microcredentials...?) \*still an idea in the planning; thinking of strategic partnerships with the university - will have placement experiential aspect to it instead of thesis There are questions about coordinating this (who/how), the experiences...; faculty want assurance of who would be coordinating these and not burdensome on the faculty
      - New hires (2 more psychology education profs) in this apparent deficit situation come from professors retiring or going on sabbatical
      - Grad Exec is frustrated with the Dean's disregard for collegial governance structures and procedures (particularly with regard to the creation of new microcredentials)
    - ii) FGS has added a new academic honesty module to complete and students were being blocked out of adding/dropping courses if they did not complete it. FGS

emailed students to say that they would block if the module was not complete, but many were blocked already.

- iii) Grad Retreat
  - In-person in June and will be about how to reimagine the program and make changes
  - To work on MCLE, bringing in diploma coordinators and add more to the lists, coordinating discussions of those who identify in certain clusters and amplify it more in faculty and website, looking at specializations, planning events for the next calendar year, discussions on the Masters program change and how the MCLE will fit in.
  - Possibility for more arts-based programming/residency including how to best support our part-time students who get lost, especially PhD; a Student Spotlight Series (ex. Maybe a podcast of some sort, The UnLeading Project) - shows Faculty student interest & engaged and building a community

- **c) Grad Exec Meeting (Feb 9)**

- i) Informed that the Dean prepared a presentation to change structure of diplomas - get rid of current set (claim is that these take too long to complete and means that more courses have to be offered - untrue)
  - This goes against the collegial governance where he is supposed to bring up this idea to Grad Exec first for approval
  - Dean will be asking Faculty Council to submit proposals to the new Masters to him directly
  - Gabby sent us the Point of Order to be sent to the Chair of Faculty Council, John Ippolito, that these points need to come to Exec first. Dean responded to Gabby individually and agreed and now will come to Exec (which is how it should be done in the first place)
  - The Dean has also created new faculty hiring without consulting
  - The structure is incentivising neoliberal innovation
  - Dean created new microcredentials without consultation with the Grad Exec <https://www.yorku.ca/edu/edglobal/>
- ii) The full numbers on the budget are not being made transparent - from the Dean's budget presentation
- iii) Andrea from the Dean's office also told Gabby that she needs to stop talking about TAs as it makes the Faculty growly
- iv) For curriculum planning, the enrolment may change for courses like LAPS - deciding which courses can be 10, etc.
  - Class sizes cannot be changed without collegial governance - they want FGS permission to increase size - but Exec does not
- v) In-person in June and will be about how to reimagine the program and make changes

- **c) Grad Exec Meeting (Feb 27)**

- i) AD of Research is working with the CFRAG Committee to create a celebration event involving students and faculty (to include students who defended their dissertation/MRP/Thesis and scholarship/award winners)
  - YGSE have been asked for input and support, to involve Esther, Sheetal and Lisa.

- ii) The Provost has “paused offers to international grad students in EDUC, EUC and LAPS. We’ve retained our 1 FT PhD international student only because we had already made an offer, and the student had accepted before the “pause” was announced.
    - For this year minimum there will be no international Masters Student - reviewing for these applications has been put on hold.
  - iii) PhD admissions:
    - Full time, funded students who have accepted offers of admission: 10 domestic, 1 international (target was 9 domestic, 1 international) moving to a second round of reviewing applicants for the two remaining domestic spots
      - PhD retain their international student since the application was processed earlier
      - International student pause applies to LAPS, AMPD, EUC and Education. The Dean did not make people aware of this - only LAPS knew about it.
    - Part time, unfunded students who have accepted offers of admission: 4 domestic, 0 international (target was 5 domestic, 1 international) moving to a second round of reviewing applicants for the 1 remaining domestic spot
  - iv) MEd Admissions (updated targets):
    - Full time, funded students: 59 domestic, 0 international
    - Part time, unfunded students: 24 domestic, 0 international
  - v) Awards are coming up for internal
    - Impressed by the work of Indigenous Masters students for the internal awards for thesis and MRP - many of the applications were submitted by Indigenous students - happy to see this
    - Impressed with the Masters’ applications, which surpassed expectations, even beyond the PhD submissions.
  - vi) Presentation from the Dean on the Education Faculty Budget. He boasted to FGS that the budget meeting went well when it did not.
  - vii) Update: Academic Honesty and process with FGS’s Appeals and Academic Honesty Commission
    - Issues have still not been resolved
    - Gabby is working with students to find solutions - challenging for one student who is set to graduate this year, with a hearing in April which might delay their graduation; another student is blocked from registration for summer courses
    - What happens if you are active and forget to register for the course?
    - Summer admission begins on April 1, students should register for the 0600 course to be counted as active
  - viii) Labour disruptions and CUPE 3903 strike
    - A collective statement instead of individual is preferred
    - Other faculties are asking if they are going to let students graduate regardless of the strike’s disruption affecting assignments/exams.
    - Faculty are either going online or completely cancelling courses. There have been discussions about whether being online constitutes a ‘digital picket’. Faculty are encouraged to go online and discouraged from cancelling in solidarity
- **d) Emergency Grad Assembly Meeting (March 4)**

- Discussion on statement that has now been sent out regarding best practices during the strike
  - Faculty was thankful to have a space to talk things through as newer faculty are feeling uncertain about what is happening with their courses
  - There has been confusion regarding a MachForm that faculty have been asked to complete, asking whether they would go online or cancel -> gave impression of rejection/approval
7. Old Business (Moved from Agenda item 10)
- i) Land Acknowledgement Fund (now Indigenous Community Support)
- Motion carried to change the name on the budget to 'Indigenous Community Support'. Motion led by Ryan and seconded by Sonia. Unanimous approval
  - Financial contribution last year was returned. It is \$50 per meeting, should be \$250 per year (which will be rolled over).
  - Could be offered to Indigenous Student Association at York (ISAY). The money could be used towards the costs of a pow wow, but they would need to confer. ISAY are very frustrated as lack of university funds/support has meant that there has been no pow wow for about 10 years.
  - Alternative use of funds could be to provide name plates for different places, very little (to the point of non existent?) to show indigenous representation in TO and nothing on campus to show it either. Also funds could be used for gifts/ tobacco
  - Discussion also moved to the \$1000 allocation for the YGSE honorarium event and it was suggested to have an online motion to reallocate the money to Indigenous Community Support.
8. New Business (Moved from Agenda item 11)
- i) Should YGSE continue to hold events/services during the strike? How can the YGSE help students help support students who are picketing/part of the strike?
- Discussion of a CUPE solidarity statement by YGSE (similar to some of the other grad student associations)
  - Digital student events may also go ahead if we are doing a student service, but not if it is for the benefit of the university in any way. Doing something for our education is not crossing a picket line (eg studying, going to the library).
  - It was noted that the shortest previous York strike was 29 days.
  - Lots of uncertainty amongst faculty about digital events (eg demystifying events)
  - Statement by YGSE to clarify this for faculty and students, then complete via email and electronic vote. **Action for everyone: Please have a look at the google doc, all thoughts and contributions welcome** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XFFSOH3Pa69B9MnmbTIEAdVsbFgaUQDq2I5U2plCqf0/edit?usp=sharing>
  - See also information by the Conference Coordinators (Point 9.b.iii)
9. Announcements
- March Newsletter sent out on Friday March 8
  - If you have something related to your position that you would like shared in the newsletter, we will accept your submission. Be aware of the deadlines for contributions.
8. By-elections (NONE)

9. Reports from Officers
  - a) Executive
  - **i) Secretary**  
A reminder to complete the [Constitution Agreement Form](#) for those who may have forgotten.
  - **ii) Treasurer's Report**  
Nothing to report
  - **iii) Equity & Communications Coordinators**
    - i) Recipient award for Global & Community Engagement (GCE) Events and Outreach Fund (\$1000)
  - **iv) Community & Professional Development Coordinators**
    - i) Demystifying Events hosted by Myrtle Sodhi
      - Deadlines and Policies
      - Defending your MRP/Thesis/Dissertation
      - Forthcoming : Writing the Dissertation/MRP/Thesis
  - b) Associates
  - **i) Chief Returning Officer**
    - i) Congratulations to Melissa!
    - ii) Nominations opened March 11, some positions have already been acclaimed
    - iii) Vacancy for Community & Professional Development Coordinator for the remainder of this year
  - **ii) Urban Indigenous Cohort Representative**
    - i) See notes from the cohort. **Action for everyone**
      - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_LrgHU1UIOBzyBjRW4bm7eWHZTeLzSn\\_W678b1n15ik/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_LrgHU1UIOBzyBjRW4bm7eWHZTeLzSn_W678b1n15ik/edit)
  - **iii) Graduate Conference Coordinators**
    - i) Lack of response from the Dean's office and from YUGSA with regard to funding
    - ii) Next meeting is on Friday March 22 at 4pm
    - iii) An extension of two weeks is planned for abstracts to be submitted
    - iv) CUPE action
      - YGSE Conference is predominantly online (only the art exhibit & social are in-person), digital social events may be able to go ahead.
      - With the current uncertainty, at some point may require a statement of possible suspension dependent on negotiations or allow for people to make personal decisions to withdraw
      - Opportunity to offer some analysis of where the conference sits in relation to CUPE
      - Could also look at postponing event or scheduling post picketing hours
  - **iv) Journal Managing Editor**
    - i) Reviews are underway
    - ii) Suad is Lead Reviewer
  - **v) Graduate Lounge/Kitchen Manager**

- i) No updates
- **vi) YUGSA Representatives**
  - i) January 18
    - In person meeting
    - Presentation from newly created YU Faculty Association on Race and Equity Caucus
    - Executives are in the process of working with lawyers regarding their statement
    - YUGSA did not receive their levies —> if not received by the end of the month, they cannot budget —> university might sanction —> would mean that bursaries would be cut first
    - Discussion of Senate meeting about the Auditor General's report in which they were discussing how York can become more profitable.
    - YUGSA brought up issues surrounding TA grievances
    - Possible referendum regarding the housing crisis
    - Meeting accessibilities: YGSE fought to have future YUGSA meetings back online for accessibility purposes, February meeting was online.
- **vii) CUPE 3903 Steward(s)**
  - i) CUPE is on strike.
- **viii) MEd and PhD Representative**
  - i) MEd Rep: No updates
  - ii) PhD Rep: No updates
- **xi) Graduate Mentorship Program Reps.**
  - i) No updates
- c) Committee Representatives
- **i) Faculty Council Representatives**
  - i) No updates
- **ii) CFRAG Representative**

Post-meeting notes:

  - i) The committee has been assessing and adjudicating certain research and teaching awards
  - ii) Celebration Day: With the AD Research there are plans for a celebration day for faculty and students, either in early or late May depending on CUPE action. This would include students who have won awards, prizes and scholarships and also those defending their MRP/Thesis/Dissertation.
- **iii) Admissions Committee Representative**
  - i) PhD Admissions
    - The committee met in January and was given a Feb 1 deadline to submit our acceptances for the Ph.D. program.
    - There were 63 applications, 43 domestic and 20 international applications, for 11 fully funded and 5 unfunded domestic positions, as well as 1 international spot available.
    - A hold was put on the international applications but the one spot had already been approved by the committee and sent out. The applicant quickly accepted this position and was accepted by the university, even though a hold was put on international applications.
  - ii) MEd Admissions

- We met again to review the applications for M.Ed. full-time and part-time positions and International spots available. There are 99 domestic applicants for 59 fully funded and 24 unfunded spots. There are 59 international applications for 1 (one) M.Ed. position. A hold was put in place, and reviewing the international students' applications reached a standstill.
  - On March 8, we were given the go-ahead to resume reviewing the International M.Ed. applications. March 15 was the deadline for full-time and part-time domestic M.Ed. applications.
  - This week (March 18), we will be given the updated lists of full-time and part-time M.Ed. students, domestic and international, to review. We are being given until the second week in April to have our acceptances ready to be sent out.
  - I am working with another committee member on the International M.Ed. students' applications.
- **iv) Hiring (TSAC) Representative**
    - i) The committee has been meeting regularly to review the applications for the three positions that the Dean put forth to hire.
    - ii) From the beginning of our meeting as a committee, there were questions about why these three positions and how the job ads were written. The committee was not formed until after the job ads were already posted.
    - iii) We have shortlisted 2 out of 3 positions. We submitted these shortlists to the Dean. The Dean rejected our shortlists.
    - iv) Because of the Dean's rejection, one of our committee members, the Affirmative Action (AA) representative, resigned. Without an AA rep, we are not a complete committee.
    - v) As a committee, we agreed to write a collective response to the Dean, but we were unsure how to do that since we are missing an AA rep. We decided to bring this matter to the attention of Faculty Council. The plan is to request feedback from the Faculty Council about whether we should respond to the Dean collectively as a committee now or wait until we have an AA rep replacement.
  - **v) Tenure & Promotions Committee Representative**
    - i) No updates
  - **vi) C & P Representative**
    - i) No updates
  - **vii) Anti-Black Racism Committee Representative.**
    - i) No updates
10. Any Other Business
- i) Old Business : Land Acknowledgement Fund (already covered, see point 7 above)
  - ii) New Business
    - CUPE action / YGSE support (already covered, see point 8 above)
    - Constitution Changes - no time to discuss
11. Meeting ended without adjournment at 6.27pm.