

2024-2025 York Graduate Students in Education (YGSE) - January Meeting

Jan 10, 2025 2:30 p.m. EST | Zoom

Attendance List

Role(s)	Name	Here?
PhD Co-chair, CUPE 3903 Unit 1 Steward	Ari Paranthahan	✓
MEd Co-chair	[To Be By-Elected]	
Secretary	Ian Chan	✓
Treasurer	[To Be By-Elected]	
Social and Professional Development Coordinator	Safra Dean	✓
Equity and Communications Coordinator, Graduate Mentorship Program Coordinator	Jennifer Tran	
Equity and Communications Coordinator	Shenel Williams	
Elections Officer, Coordinating & Planning (C&P) Committee	Mahnaz Dehghantezerjani	✓
Indigenous Student Representative (ISR)	Melissa Somer	✓
YU-WRITE Journal Managing Editor, Admission Representative	Sheetal Prasad	✓
Graduate Lounge/Kitchen Manager	Tracy Kan	
Graduate Conference Coordinator, Committee for Faculty Research, Awards & Grants Representative	Ellie Van Berkel	✓
Graduate Conference Coordinator	Tesni Ellis	✓
PhD Representative	Ayesha Michelle Menezes	✓
MEd Representative	Aida Mohammadi	
Graduate Mentorship Program Coordinator	Runeni Mangwiza Zvemhara	
York University Graduate Student Association (YUGSA) Representative	Tristan Castro Pozo Castro	✓
York University Graduate Student Association (YUGSA) Representative	Chunlei Liu	
Faculty Council Representative	Sonia Martin	✓
Faculty Council Representative	Stella Kim	✓
Justice, Equity, and Redress of Anti-Black Racism (JERA) Committee Representative	Prilly Bicknell-Hersco	✓
Tenure & Promotions Committee Representative	Selina Greco	

Attendees (13 out of 20 - Not Simultaneous)

Ari Paranthahan, Ian Chan, Safra Dean, Mahnaz Dehghantezjerani, Melissa Somer, Sheetal Prasad, Ellie Van Berkel, Tesni Ellis, Ayesha Michelle Menezes, Tristan Castro Pozo Castro, Sonia Martin, Stella Kim, Prilly Bicknell-Hersco

Apologies (7 out of 20)

Jennifer Tran, Shenel Williams, Tracy Kan, Aida Mohammadi, Runeni Mangwiza Zvemhara, Chunlei Liu, Selina Greco

Agenda

1. **Call to Order** - 2:33 pm
2. **Land Acknowledgment** (by PhD Co-Chair Ari Paranthahan)
3. **Roll Call** (by Secretary Ian Chan) - $\frac{2}{3}$ majority (14 members) simultaneous attendance was not fulfilled as some members joined and left at different times; quorum was not reached and thus no voting took place
4. **Vote on Agenda** [cancelled]
5. **Approval of Previous Minutes** [cancelled]
6. **PhD Co-Chair's Remarks**
 - Grad Exec Updates
 - There was not much conversation about anything new; discourses were mainly about the faculties of the future and the professional master's programme that the faculty of education dean is encouraging the grad execs to take up and create.
 - Assistant Professor of Digital Futures in Education sava saheli singh suggested the YGSE to create a document that supports students with RAShip with pay equity, in the same ways that students with GAShip are supported.
 - Graduate Mentorship Program Coordinators Jennifer Tran and Runeni Mangwiza Zvemhara would like to run an event in February for the mentors and the mentees, so they are wondering how much budget they have for that.
 - The grad execs are looking to create a finance committee to cover the treasurer role before a nominee is elected. So far only PhD Co-Chair Ari Paranthahan is involved; anyone who has experience with finance would be welcome to join.
 - Newsletter - originally it was supposed to be former MEd Co-Chair Stephanie Soares' task, but due to her resignation it would be on hold until a new nominee is elected.
7. **Reports of Officers**
 - Executive
 - Elections Officer - by-election on Zoom for MEd Co-Chair, Treasurer, YUGSA Rep and CUPE Steward positions are cancelled and replaced with electronic vote, which would be sent out next week; YU-WRITE Journal Managing Editor / Admission Representative Sheetal Prasad reminded about sending out an email to the listserv to ask for last-minute nominations before finalizing the mach form for students to vote.
 - Vote on MEd Co-Chair Nominee - Ian Chan [withdrawn; replaced with PhD Co-Chair Nominee James Thomas]
 - Vote on YUGSA Rep Nominee - Helen Liu
 - Equity and Communications Coordinator / Graduate Mentorship Program Coordinators [cancelled]
 - Social and Professional Development Coordinator
 - Nothing has been planned for the winter semester other than a coffee chat attended by a few individuals.
 - Further communication work is expected to be done with Graduate Program Director Gabby Moser for the winter semester demystifying series. PhD Co-Chair Ari Paranthahan added that there are speaker fees for events to be covered by the grad office.
 - Associates
 - Indigenous Student Rep
 - A workshop facilitated by the Indigenous Student Rep herself back in November for the education professional development at York was very well-received, and a lot of people asked why this knowledge is saved for graduate school and not taught at the undergraduate or pre-undergraduate level. Comments suggested that it is essential understandings of ongoing oppression, assimilation,

- and genocide that needs to be taught for people, especially newcomers, to have a real understanding of what's happening in Canada.
- Chef Rick is providing 4 different amazing options of indigenous soup at all of the dining halls (e.g. Central Square, Glendon, Strong and Winters) every Friday - roasted corn soup, Three Sisters soup, carrot and ginger soup, and roasted squash.
- From 5 to 10 pm on January 10, 2025 (Friday), there would be the second annual round dance at the Native Canadian Center - a large-scale social event for female-identifying individuals recommending them to wear Ribbon skirts.
- From previous years, there were plaques placed around the campus about Indigenous people's knowledges and languages. In this case, the timing for the YGSE putting up these plaques to support ongoing conversations about reconciliation would become a question. Details are to be confirmed with Rick as he has specific information regarding where to order and place these plaques to help support and advocate for Indigenous languages.
- Graduate Conference Coordinators
 - Call for attending the in-person conference event on February 19, 2025 (Wednesday), which focuses on dialogues and workshops.
 - Online paper panel day is also expected to happen as there are enough submissions; fully fleshed out papers as well as works in progress are welcome.
 - Attempts are made to ensure that there is enough money to cover the costs for venue rental and food (at least refreshments even if not food).
 - Invitations have already been sent to participants of keynote panel, workshops and performances.
 - Conversations with Graduate Program Director Gabby Moser about conference funding are expected to be done in the week after this meeting, while there is also hope in alumni networks, YUGSA and AEF as potential sources of financial support. Passing the YGSE budget would be helpful, otherwise the graduate conference coordinators might need to pay out of pocket.
- Journal Managing Editor
 - Call for papers has already been concluded, and there's an application for the lead reviewer position being adjudicated in progress.
 - A mass email regarding the two back issues of the previous open call and the post-conference from Beyond Taboos will be sent through OJS and the listservs.
 - There is a push for second-year PhD students to defend their proposals by March 15th, according to the information provided by one unidentified student in accordance with FGS requirements. A petition has to be filed for any extension requests, or else any spring/summer term enrollment requests would be blocked and subsequently affect funding.
- Graduate Lounge/Kitchen Manager
 - [Report](#) (quoted by Secretary Ian Chan from Graduate Lounge/Kitchen Manager Tracy Kan)
- YUGSA Rep
 - Some YUGSA members complained about the \$300 funding for the conference from the YUGSA meeting the previous evening.
 - There was a motion for the policing forces that York University planned to implement on campus, which was condemned by YUGSA.
 - A question was raised regarding the reason for the faculty of education not having 3 positions; PhD Co-Chair Ari Paranthahan clarified that this situation would be resolved very soon as there is already a nominee to be prospectively elected through electronic voting.
- CUPE 3903 Steward - no updates for now
- MEd and PhD Reps
 - PhD Rep Ayesha Michelle Menezes might send out a newsletter to PhD students by the following Monday to inform them about the MobilizeU summer course run by the Knowledge Mobilization Unit at York University. Also, PhD Rep Ayesha Michelle Menezes aspires to help coach students on conference proposals and call for more submissions. PhD Co-Chair Ari Paranthahan offers to provide support for such and requests Secretary Ian Chan to send out emails to the listserv.
 - MEd Rep Aida Mohammadi prepared a [survey](#) to gather input regarding the MEd program (presented by Secretary Ian Chan on her behalf).

- Faculty Committee Representatives
 - Faculty Council Reps
 - There were some complaints from professors about the dean's poor attendance at faculty council meetings, often leaving early and requiring changes in agenda order so that he could speak before departure. He attempted to justify his conduct by saying that it is because he goes to meetings higher up the chain for advancing the interests of students from the Faculty of Education. Nevertheless, people are not satisfied with this rationale and insisted that he should remain in the whole meeting as it is the one-time opportunity for everyone to work collegially and talk to the deans. Graduate Program Director Gabby Moser also questioned the dean's withdrawal of conference funding.
 - A new budget was presented by President Rhonda Lenton, Interim Provost and Vice President Academic David Peters as well as Vice-President Finance and Administration Narin Kishinchandani. There was a lot of pushback from professors, one commenting that it was basically just a big data dump that was very hard to follow, rather than successfully serving the intended consultation purpose. Concerns were raised about faculty hierarchies, lack of anti-colonial perspectives, international students being treated as cash cows and fracturing of community (a student allegedly committed suicide, yet there is a dilemma between protecting privacy according to FIPPA and allowing community grief).
 - An Indigenous assistant professor's resignation from York University (not to be disclosed for privacy reasons) sparked conversations about the need for a supportive and healthy academia environment for Indigenous faculty members.
 - CFRAG Rep
 - There were some discussions about what protection for RAship funding might look like. Not much can be disclosed regarding the context in which those discussions came up. Standards are needed to regulate how RAs are paid and what the expectations are, as they are not protected by the union. An RAship payment equity statement is expected to be created and brought up to the faculty council. PhD Co-Chair Ari Paranthahan and YU-WRITE Journal Managing Editor / Admission Representative Sheetal Prasad are interested in co-facilitating this effort.
 - Admissions Committee Rep - no updates to be reported, as the first meeting will not take place until January 27, 2025 (Monday).
 - Tenure and Promotions Committee Rep [cancelled]
 - Coordinating and Planning Rep - there are three potential locations on campus for establishing the multifaith prayer room for education students.
 - Justice, Equity, Redress and Anti-Black Racism (JERA) Committee Rep - there is no chair for the committee; a call for nominees would be launched again as some members cannot be the chair due to their roles in York University.
8. **Vote on the Budget** - cancelled; replaced with discussion on the revised budget
9. **End Time Without Adjournment** - 4:29 pm