

**2024-2025 York Graduate Students in Education (YGSE) – May 7, 2025 @ 1 pm—
Meeting Minutes**

Role(s)	Name	Here?
PhD Co-chair, CUPE 3903 Unit 1 Steward	Ari Paranthahan	Y
PhD Co-chair	James Thomas	N
Secretary, YU-WRITE Journal Managing Editor, Admission Representative	Sheetal Prasad	Y
Treasurer, Graduate Lounge/Kitchen Manager	Tracy Kan	Y
Social and Professional Development Coordinator	Safra Dean	Y
Equity and Communications Coordinator, Graduate Mentorship Program Coordinator	Jennifer Tran	Y
Equity and Communications Coordinator	Shenel Williams	Y
Elections Officer, Coordinating & Planning (C&P) Committee	Mahnaz Dehghantezerjani	N
Indigenous Student Representative (ISR)	Melissa Somer	N
Graduate Conference Coordinator, Committee for Faculty Research, Awards & Grants Representative	Ellie Van Berkel	Y
Graduate Conference Coordinator	Tesni Ellis	Y
PhD Representative	Ayesha Michelle Menezes	Y
MEd Representative	Aida Mohammadi	N
Graduate Mentorship Program Coordinator	Runeni Mangwiza Zvemhara	N
York University Graduate Student Association (YUGSA) Representative	Tristan Castro Pozo Castro	Y
York University Graduate Student Association (YUGSA)	Chunlei Liu	N

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Role(s)	Name	Here?
Representative		
York University Graduate Student Association (YUGSA) Representative	Helen Liu	N
Faculty Council Representative	Sonia Martin	Y
Faculty Council Representative	Stella Kim	Y
Justice, Equity, and Redress of Anti-Black Racism (JERA) Committee Representative	Prilly Bicknell-Hersco	N
Tenure & Promotions Committee Representative	Selina Greco	N

Agenda:

Highlighted = Action Items for the Council

1. Call to Order at 1:04 pm (Ari chairs meeting)
2. Land Acknowledgment by Ari
3. Roll Call (Secretary)
4. Vote on the Agenda → motioned by Sonia; seconded by Tristan – **motion passes**
5. Approval of [Previous Minutes](#) → motioned by Ayesha; seconded by Ellie → **motion passes**
 - a. Due to reasons, previous minutes didn't have reports from the council, however, changes cannot be made since this detail was noticed after the approval.
6. Changes to [Budget](#) & Vote
 - a. Moving leftover funds from the conference to the emergency reserve and grad retreat
 - i. Option to move all remaining funds to the retreat and then whatever is left over after the event is put towards the emergency → note is to be given to next co-chairs to vote in October
 - ii. Questions surrounding honorariums and who will be conducting workshops
 - b. Motion to put the leftover 2758.06 from the conference budget line towards the August grad retreat budget line and whatever is left over from the August grad retreat event, will be put towards the emergency reserve budget line → motioned by Sonia; seconded by Ellie → **Motion passes**
7. PhD Co-Chair's remarks

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- a. Grad Exec Update
 - i. MLCE review
 - 1. James and Ari sat in as part of the review. The student rep for MLCE and some profs didn't show up
 - 2. Dean wants to shut down the MLCE program to make way for the micro credentials and to resolve our budget deficit
 - a. Faculty are not in favour of this as they see importance in the MLCE program
 - ii. Retreat Planning
 - 1. If anyone wants to join, please email the co-chairs
 - 2. 30 seats max → priority to Faculty of Education (FoE) students and faculty and incoming students
 - 3. [Proposed Budget](#)
 - iii. Quorum Vote Update
 - 1. Motion to have 51% quorum instead of 2/3rd majority passed via MachForm
 - iv. Onboarding Day
 - 1. Onboarding for incoming council members → formal day or one-on-one on everyone's own time
 - 2. If we do onboarding, it will have to be in Fall because of our Fall election
 - 3. Plan shifting to maybe having a grad planning day parallel to the August retreat → more discussion needed in the next retreat planning meeting
 - v. **Reminder - Final Reports & Training New People in the Role**
 - 1. Sheetal will send out a template for everyone to fill out. All reports are to be sent to the Secretary by August

8. Reports of Officers

Executive

- a. Equity and Communications Coordinators
 - i. Transitional Package onboarding event
 - ii. Applied to the Wellness Fund (waiting to hear back)
- b. Social and Professional Development Coordinator
 - i. Plans to organize the Demystifying Series. First session should run this month
- c. Elections Officer
 - i. Spring Election results:
 - 1. **Co-Chair:** James Thomas
 - 2. **Treasurer:** Tracy Kan
 - 3. **Graduate Conference Coordinators:** Ayesha Michelle Menezes and Manchari Paranthahan (Ari Para)
 - 4. **YU-Write Journal Managing Editor:** Victoria Villani

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5. **Graduate Mentorship Program Coordinator:** James Thomas
6. **Faculty Council Representative:** Manchari Paranthahan (Ari Para) and Stella Kim
- ii. By-Election Nominees → **Council will vote via MachForm**
 1. **Secretary (1 position):** Tristan Castro Pozo
 2. **Graduate Mentorship Program Coordinator (1 position):** Tesni Ellis
 3. **Equity & Communications Coordinator (2 positions):** Katrina Cain-Griffin
- iii. Vacant Positions
 1. **Co-Chair (1 position)**
 2. **Elections Officer (1 position)**
 3. **Equity & Communications Coordinator (1 position left)**
 4. **Coordinating and Planning (C&P) Representative (1 position)**
 5. **Social and Events Coordinator (1 position)**
- d. Secretary
 - i. **Please fill out and send back your End of Year reports to me by August**
 - ii. If you need anything sent out to the listservs and/or social media, please let me know
 - iii. **For anyone who has an email related to their role, I will be taking note of those emails and ensuring properly security measures (ensuring that the recovery email is set to the secretary's email) as part of my role and responsibility**

Associates

- e. Indigenous Student Rep - [Indigenous Studies Response to York University](#)
- f. Graduate Conference Coordinators
 - i. Wrote a report for the year end and Gabby will send it to the Dean as part of advocacy towards proper funding from the Dean's Office → this report will showcase the importance funding the grad student conference
 - ii. Positive affirmations for having an in-person aspect of the conference
 - iii. **NOTE TO ELLIE AND TESNI: Please email me your report once you are done**
- g. Journal Managing Editor
 - i. The open-call issue is currently in the copyediting process. We have 7 manuscripts that will be published by end of June
 - ii. The post-conference issue's deadline for manuscripts is May 23 → will be sending out reminders to presenters
 - iii. Journal has hired 1 Lead Editor and 2 copyeditors for the two issues
 - iv. Will be setting up onboarding with Victoria in summer
- h. Graduate Lounge/Kitchen Manager

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- i. Suggestion to have a donation drive on office supplies and non-perishable items
 - 1. Sheetal will send Tracy the email sent last year on this
- i. YUGSA Reps
 - i. Received a proposal to facilitate wellness events
 - ii. YUGSA also discussed budgetary cuts and what that may mean for students, faculty, etc.
 - 1. YUGSA have/will be creating open letter/statement on York's decisions to cut programs and other budgetary items
- j. CUPE 3903 Steward
 - i. Plans to write a report with dates and deadlines for the next rep
 - ii. May or July the tentative hire list should go out → students should be aware of their right to first refusal and ensuring their names are in the priority pool
- k. MEd and PhD Reps
 - i. Ayesha: Newsletter is going out
 - ii. Aida: N/A
- l. Graduate Mentorship Program Coordinators
 - i. Even though we had a smaller group of participants this year, we received a lot of great feedback
 - ii. Mentorship Appreciation last month
 - 1. Ari held a beading workshop
 - 2. Great turnout of students and faculty
 - iii. End of Year Mentorship Celebration will be held this Thursday

Faculty Committee Representatives

- m. Faculty Council Reps
 - i. Couple of items came up
 - 1. Teaching Commons has been defunded → open letter has been sent out
 - 2. PPT by Aparna about the FoE in light of the Faculties of the Futures
 - a. Hints that the MoE will switch to a 1 year B.Ed program instead of 2 years
 - b. Report in defending the FoE and that if any changes happen, the Faculty will be consulted
 - 3. Hemant left → waiting for budgetary approval
 - 4. Applicants to the Fall 2025 for the Indigenous cohort have been admitted to the overall cohort intake
 - 5. Year End Celebration for Research on June 5 2-5 pm
 - a. Awards for Faculty and maybe students

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6. [Policies for Thesis/Dissertation](#) that students should be aware of
- n. CFRAG Rep
 1. End of Year celebration → open to students
 2. Sheetal will send out email once approval is given from the Rep
- o. Admissions Committee Rep
 - i. All acceptances, rejections and waitlist letters have been sent
 1. PhD numbers
 - a.
 2. Med numbers
- p. Tenure and Promotions Committee Rep → N/A
- q. Coordinating and Planning Rep → N/A
- r. Justice, Equity, Redress and Anti-Black Racism (JERA) Committee Rep → N/A
9. Adjournment at 2:15 pm