

Maura Matesic
Candidate's Statement for position of Chief Steward

Dear Colleagues,

I am standing for the position of Chief Steward of the York University Faculty Association (YUFA). It seems more and more that faculty in Ontario are being asked to make bricks without straw as we confront increasingly centralized bureaucracies, shrinking complements, and a profusion of restructuring exercises premised on economic rather than pedagogical concerns. At York these trends are evident in everything from the implementation of a centralized budgeting model to uneven pension reform, closed decanal search committees to the elimination of credit for graduate supervision, concerns around faculty deployment at the Markham campus to a growing reliance on clumsy metrics for measuring research impact. Issues of open governance, collegiality, and teaching load remain key issues for our members as we move into another round of bargaining.

My deep commitment to issues of equity and collegiality is reflected in all areas of my professional work, service contributions, and research agenda in labour studies. Transparency, accountability, and collegiality have been the cornerstones my work as Vice President Internal (VPI) and YUFA Treasurer. In these roles I have promoted collective engagement and shared decision-making within the Association and among the membership.

As VPI for the past two years, I have emphasized member participation by working to encourage faculty across York to contribute to YUFA through community partnerships, committee work, as well as social justice and labour mobilization groups. I have chaired YUFA's Staff Relations Committee and co-chaired YUFA's Labour Management Committee. With an eye to establishing clear procedures for YUFA operations, I drafted numerous policies including health and safety policies, workplace and sexual harassment prevention policies, and worked to ensure that YUFA is in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. I also participated actively on the Executive Committee and Stewards' Council.

As YUFA Treasurer from 2013 to 2015, I administered the finances of the Association with great care, participated in the work of the Executive Committee and Stewards' Council, and implemented a more regular reporting structure around YUFA's financial procedures. I also undertook a collegial review, in cooperation with the Executive and other YUFA committees, of the Association's investment policies and practices to ensure our strategies accurately reflect the values and meet the needs of the membership.

My longstanding commitment to YUFA and its members is evident in the wide variety of roles I have assumed since my appointment at York University in 1999. I first served on the YUFA Executive from 2000-2002. Most recently I completed full terms as Treasurer and VPI. As an established member of the Executive I

understand how the union and the university function. I have supported policy grievances, participated in bargaining activities, and taken on leadership roles in organizational administration. I am a founding member of the YUFA-initiated Jane Finch/York University Partnership Committee and continue to serve as a member of the YUFA Community Projects Committee. I also serve as a YUFA Foundations Director and as a certified YUFA member of the Joint Health and Safety Committee. I continue to represent YUFA on York University's Retirement Planning Advisory Board and have co-chaired this group since 2009. My previous experience includes representing YUFA members for a number of years as a CAUT Defense Fund trustee (2001-2007).

Throughout my time at York I have served as chair and co-chair for numerous departments and committees in the Libraries. Most recently I have provided leadership as chair of the Libraries' Promotion and Continuing Appointment Committee, the Research and Awards Committee, and several appointment committees. Outside the Libraries, I have designed and taught senior undergraduate courses in York's Law and Society Program while serving on the Executive of the Canadian Law and Society Association in a variety of roles including regional representative, co-chair of conference organization, program chair, and currently as treasurer.

My experience has helped me to develop a vital understanding of our Collective Agreement and the labour issues and challenges that affect our membership. Should I be entrusted with this role, I will endeavour to uphold member's rights and improve labour relations with integrity and honesty.