

Art Redding

In addition to securing, protecting, and expanding principles and practices of academic freedom, labour rights, and collegial governance that are subject to erosion in a climate of increased managerialism and corporate interference, YUFA cultivates an awareness of the collaborative nature of academic work in solidarity with scholars, teachers, students, and workers across campus and beyond. I am running for YUFA president because I believe that the Faculty Association invites each of us to a richer, fuller, and more engaging participation in the working, civic, scholarly, and pedagogical life of the university.

In the past few years the current President and YUFA leadership have successfully placed YUFA on a strong financial footing and worked hard to ensure openness and accountability. By developing strong ties in the Cross-Campus Alliance we have worked alongside other unions to advocate for justice and economic security for all workers, to push for collegiality, and to ensure York University's ongoing commitment to social justice. Our faculty/graduate student club, et al., is due to open soon. Most importantly we have bargained hard to secure and expand our rights under the Collective Agreement, winning commitments from the university to develop fairer teaching loads and broaden inclusiveness. With input from members, we are currently developing a series of strong proposals for the upcoming round of bargaining. We will work hard at the bargaining table to secure and expand the rights and benefits of workers and retirees.

I am proud to play some role in these achievements. As a member of the past and current Collective Bargaining team I have developed familiarity with the strengths as well as the limitations of the Collective Agreement. As YUFA chief steward for the past two years, I have sought to improve labor relations, worked with other stewards and with our first-rate staff to ensure that our protections and rights are upheld, striven to develop practices that accentuate collegiality, transparency, and accountability at all levels, and undertaken to expedite individual grievances and to develop cordial working relations among YUFA members.

A professor of English with a specialty in modern literature of the United States, I have also taught at universities across North America and in Europe. Since arriving at York in 2004, I have served as the Chair of the Department of English, as well as on the Executive Committee, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, and the Senate Tenure and Promotion Committee. I am a past President of the Canadian Association for American Studies.

While managerial over-reach remains one of the biggest trials facing us, we will also need to tussle with the specific implications of the new budget model and the opening of the Markham campus. I look forward to working together with colleagues during these challenging times to preserve and defend the crucial links between labor rights and academic freedoms.