

Statement of Interest for the Recording Secretary Position (2022-2024) – Ida Ferrara

I am submitting my nomination for the Recording Secretary position, which I am currently holding on an interim basis. I have extensive knowledge of the workings of the Association and of the various bodies it encompasses and supports, including the Stewards' Council, having: (1) served as an Equity Officer for four years (2010-14), (2) sat on both the Joint Committee on the Administration of the Agreement (2011-13) and the Joint Financial Information Subcommittee (2015-2018), and (3) represented my department at the Stewards' Council for two years (2014-16). But I also have extensive governance experience outside of YUFA and at various levels. At the unit level, my roles have included: Program Coordinator, UPD, and Chair; at the Faculty level, I have been involved in the Curriculum, Petitions, Policy and Planning, and Executive Committees and am currently the Vice-Chair of the LA&PS Faculty Council; at the University level, I participated in several Working Groups during the restructuring of Arts and Atkinson and as part of the AAPR exercise, sat on the most recent VPAP Advisory Search Committee, was a member of Senate for four years (as a Faculty representative for one year and departmental chair for three years), and have been a Deputy Director of an ORU since 2018.

The relevance of the above engagements for the Recording Secretary position is that I have experienced directly or indirectly the minute taking task, which is the primary responsibility of the Recording Secretary, a task which I have diligently been attending to since my election in September as the interim Recording Secretary, but I have also been exposed to various decision-making situations involving divergent views and have gained valuable insights along the way about what makes a successful and effective working relationship when part of a team that deals with controversies and challenges, as the YUFA Executive inevitably does. In this regard, as a YUFA officer, the Recording Secretary participates in important discussions and decisions at the Executive level, and I am most confident that I can contribute to these discussions and decisions positively given my extensive experience, meticulous assessment of situations, problem-solving orientation, and analytical approach. I firmly believe in the importance of a sense of community, which builds on a constructive predisposition towards differences of opinion and on a sound commitment to creating opportunities to exemplify the diversity of views within the membership, and, if elected, I will endeavour to reflect this belief and promote positive discourses in discharging my responsibilities as a member of the YUFA Executive and Stewards' Council.