

Ellie Perkins – Candidate statement for the position of YUFA Recording Secretary, 2021

Besides taking accurate minutes, the Recording Secretary, as a member of YUFA's Executive Committee, helps to shape our union's policies and decisions.

I am running for this position because I strongly appreciate the central role that YUFA plays in both the academic and working life of faculty at York, and I hope to contribute to and help strengthen the work of our association.

If elected, I will work closely with other Executive members, stewards, and with the YUFA membership in general to promote the goals of YUFA as mandated by our membership.

Important priorities for YUFA now, in my view, include:

- Leading, and representing faculty members' interests and educational expertise, as York University returns to campus, in-person pedagogies, and a university environment changed by the pandemic which has brought nearly two years of warped communication, glaring social inequities, upheavals for faculty, staff, and students, poor government policies, and stress.
- Reinvigorating governance processes at York so that faculty reassume their central role in decision-making, from the unit level to the university as a whole: we are the source of the university's energy and strength, as the Tenure and Promotion procedures state.
- Definitively responding to equity-related challenges related to harassment and discrimination, hate speech, accommodation, campus accessibility, equity audits, anti-empiricism, and other issues as they arise.

I have held a number of YUFA positions since coming to York in 1993. I sat on the YUFA Executive, representing the Faculty of Environmental Studies as its steward*, from 1993 until 1997. I have served on the Negotiating Committee (2001), the Joint Committee on the Administration of the Collective Agreement (2002-2003 and 2018-2019), as a Chief Steward* (2002-2004), as an Equity Officer* (2018-2019), as a YUFA representative on the Pension Board of Trustees (2002-2013) and its Proxy Voting Subcommittee (2003-2013), and on the YUFA Community Projects Committee (2010 – 2020). I was a grievor in a YUFA pay equity grievance (2001-2004) and YUFA's successful grievance on the abolition of CUPE GA positions (https://www.yufa.ca/yufa_wins_landmark_arbitration). I am well acquainted with the Collective Agreement, the structures and objectives of YUFA, and the collective bargaining process.

*These roles confer membership in the YUFA Executive, on which I served in 1993-97, 2002-04, and 2018-19.

I am a Professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change (EUC) where I teach undergraduate and graduate courses and advise graduate students. My research focuses on climate justice, feminist ecological economics, participatory commons and watershed governance, and critical research design / research methods.

A feminist, intersectional equity focus is central to my research, teaching, service and community work. I believe that respectful collegial communication and careful attention to procedure are critical to fulfilling the spirit as well as the letter of the mandate of organizations representing diverse constituencies and perspectives, and to building trust and capacity within the organization itself. Accurate note-taking and detailed records of deliberations and decisions are thus the foundation of collegial processes. I will draw on my knowledge of YUFA's history and diversity in recording the association's meetings. I would be honoured to serve you as YUFA Recording Secretary.