

Pedagogy & Peer Support in Contested Classrooms

The Faculty Affairs Office, in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion and the Teaching Commons, is pleased to invite faculty that *teach courses that engage with politically sensitive, socially charged, or otherwise controversial topics (third-rail courses)* to two sessions on pedagogy and peer support in contested classrooms.

Third Rail Teaching Collaborative
Oct 8 | 11.30-1.30pm | 280N YL

This will be the first meeting of the Third Rail Teaching Collaborative (TRT Collaborative), a community for faculty who teach courses that engage with politically sensitive, socially charged, or otherwise controversial topics. These “third rail” courses such as those dealing with geo-political issues, race, gender, climate change, immigration, religion, and political conflict often place unique demands on faculty. [Learn more and Register.](#)

Engaging Constructively with Controversial Issues
Oct 21 | 1.00-2.00pm | Zoom

Join this webinar with Dr. Judith Pace to explore holistic approaches to constructive engagement with controversial issues in classrooms. Dr. Pace will present her framework on reflective practice, which emerged from her research project on preparing preservice teachers to teach controversial issues that matter for democracy, justice, and human rights in Northern Ireland, England, and the United States. [Learn more and Register.](#)

Academic Freedom Now: Challenges for Individuals & Institutions
Oct 9 | 11.45 - 1.45pm | 280N York Lanes | [RSVP Link](#)

This panel explores the current state of academic freedom in Canadian universities. We will address emerging threats, including political interference, ideological polarization, funding pressures, as well as legislative reforms that challenge institutional autonomy and the practice of scholarly research and teaching.

Tenure and Promotion Series: Advancing to Candidacy

Oct 8 | 1.30pm-2.30pm | Online [Zoom Link](#) | [RSVP Link](#)

All Assistant Professors in the Pre-Candidacy stage are invited to learn about Advancement to Candidacy. The session will provide guidance and peer insights for applying for candidacy (typically takes place in the third year for appointments that began in Pre-candidacy 1 stage).

National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD)

We invite you to join tailored information sessions on the benefits of our institutional membership with the NCFDD, including free access to tools, resources, and community support.

OCT 21

10 – 10.45AM

NCFDD at Your Fingertips: Resources and Community for Faculty Success
[RSVP Link](#)

OCT 22

11 - 11.45AM

NCFDD for Academic Leaders: Resources to Support Faculty and Foster Success
[RSVP Link](#)

OCT 24

10-10.45AM

Unlocking NCFDD: Tools and Networks for Graduate Student & Postdoc Success
[RSVP Link](#)

Teaching Commons

Community Conversations: Communicating with Integrity
Oct 9 | 1.00-2.00pm | Zoom | [RSVP Link](#)

Join us as we explore how educators can communicate expectations of academic integrity clearly and consistently, including how to address the role of GenAI. How can we refine current approaches and adopt new practical strategies that are integrated within our current teaching and assessment practices?

AI and Education: A Hands-On Approach for Course Transformation
Oct 27 – Nov 28 | 2.00-3.30pm | Zoom | [RSVP Link](#)

Explore the impact of AI in higher education while getting hands-on to make meaningful changes to your own courses. Whether you are new to generative AI, already using it, or skeptical about its role in education, this course will support you in developing a robust and pedagogically informed approach to its many facets and implications. [Learn More](#)

» Application for Teaching Fellows

The Office of the Vice-Provost Teaching & Learning is launching a [Teaching Fellows Program](#) with a first call for proposals this Fall 2025. The goals of the Teaching Fellows program are to encourage faculty-led opportunities for teaching development in priority areas, to highlight and celebrate excellence in teaching across the institution, and to enhance the experience of teaching and learning for faculty and students. The first round of applications for the 2-year Teaching Fellows program are due **October 31, 2025**. Please find eligibility and other details [here](#).

Research

Insight Development Grants Info Session
Oct 9 | 9.30-11.30am | Zoom | [RSVP Link](#)

Insight Development Grants support research in its initial stages, enabling the development of new research questions as well as experimentation with new methods, theoretical approaches, and/or ideas. Value: maximum \$75,000 Duration: 1-2 years Deadline: February 2, 2026

» Call for Nominations: 2026 President’s Research Awards

The Senate Committee on Awards is now accepting nominations for the 2026 President’s Research Awards – three of York University’s highest honours celebrating research excellence, innovation and leadership. Nominations deadline is **December 10th**.

The awards are:

- President’s Emerging Research Leadership Award ([PERLA](#))
- President’s Research Impact Award ([PRIA](#))
- President’s Research Excellence Award ([PREA](#))

For more information visit the Senate Committee on Awards [website](#) or contact jpratt@yorku.ca.

Faculty of Graduate Studies

Graduate Supervisors Meet-Up Thinking with: Supervisory Writing Feedback as an Act of Care
Oct 23 | 10.00-11.30am | 305 YL | [RSVP Link](#)

Professors Marlene Bernholtz and Dunja Baus from the York University Writing Centre will be facilitating practical conversations regarding the supervisor’s role in growing graduate student writing skills.

Supervision 101 at YorkU - Workshop
Nov 12 | 1.00-2.30pm | Online | [RSVP Link](#)

Whether you are new to York University, new to grad studies or a seasoned graduate faculty member, you are warmly invited to join the Faculty of Graduate Studies’ Graduate Supervision Support Hub for an online workshop and facilitated discussion regarding graduate supervision.