

York University Retirees' Association

CONSTITUTION

as Amended and Approved at the October 2013 AGM

I. Aims and Objectives

- A. Generally, to organize information, discussion and action among York University retirees, and to act as a conduit for York University retirees to other university retiree organizations, e.g., College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC).
- B. To promote and defend the interests of retirees in the pensions and benefit plans of York University. This would include YURA's membership on bodies such as the All-University Committee on Pensions (AUCP) and the Pension Board of Trustees (PBoT).
- C. To act as liaison between the interests of all retirees and the relevant administrators of York University.
- D. To serve as a medium of information and human resources through which retirees may volunteer/contribute to University constituencies.
- E. To organize social, recreational and learning activities for all York retirees.

II. Membership

- A. Membership of YURA is open to all retirees of York University.
- B. Only members who have paid the authorized membership fee are entitled to vote.
- C. Spouses and partners are welcome to pay for and to participate in the social, recreational, and learning activities that are arranged for YURA members. "Associate membership" of YURA is available if desired, at the same annual fee as regular membership, but does not, however, provide entitlement to all of the rights and privileges of former York employees. Associate membership is also available to current York employees during their last year before retirement.

III. Governance

- A. There shall be an Executive Committee composed of not fewer than nine or more than fourteen individuals (excluding ex officio members), elected by the current members of the Association, to hold office for two years.

A current member of the Executive Committee may stand for re-election for additional two-year periods, to a maximum of three terms.

Officers of the Association shall be two co-presidents, secretary, and treasurer. Other members of the Executive Committee shall be members at large or ex officio members.

- B. (i) In addition to III A above, the Executive Committee may appoint a number of "ex officio" members for specific tasks or because of their specialized knowledge or experience. Terms of service shall be as in III A. Ex-officio members shall have equal voting rights to those of elected members, and are expected to attend Executive Committee meetings (or submit a report) when they have news relating to the subject of their appointment.

(ii) In addition to III A above, the Executive Committee may include an official representative from The Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians (ARFL). Chosen by ARFL, this representative is non-voting, but otherwise has all the rights and responsibilities of the regular Executive Committee members of YURA. (It is understood that this representation of ARFL on the YURA Executive is conditional on similar representation of YURA on the Executive of ARFL).

- C. The Executive Committee shall meet at least six times a year – October, December, February, April, June, and September, and at other times as necessary.

At the June meeting, the Executive Committee shall:

- i. set the date for the AGM (see VI A below)
 - ii. function as a nominating committee with one member of the Executive Committee serving as chair of the nominating committee
 - iii. propose candidates for all Executive Committee upcoming vacancies including renewals
 - a. The nomination of candidates shall take into account the gender as well as the former employee constituencies of members
 - iv. nominate for two-year renewable terms, replacements as necessary for YURA representative(s) to the
 - a. Pension Board of Trustees,
 - b. All-University Committee on Pensions
 - c. Retirement Planning Centre Advisory Board
 - v. the representatives in iv) shall be ex-officio members of the Executive if not already elected members
 - vi. nominate for two-year renewable terms, replacements as necessary for the office of co-president
 - a. one of the two co-presidents should be a retired member of faculty and one a retired member of staff or administration
 - vii. nominate for two-year renewable terms, replacements for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer
- D. By September 1, the Executive Committee shall solicit nominations for all vacancies from members of the Association
- i) nominations must be signed by the nominator and the nominee
 - ii) nominations must be submitted to the Executive Committee at the YURA office by September 15

Not less than four weeks before the AGM, the Executive Committee shall circulate the full slate of candidates to all YURA members.

All nominations will be presented, and voting (or affirmation) will take place at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

- the Executive Committee will prepare ballot forms for use at the AGM if multiple nominations are made for any position

- E. No nominations other than through the above process will be accepted at the Annual Meeting.
- F. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be five members.
- G. In the event that a member of the Executive Committee retires or is unable to serve his/her full term of office, the Executive Committee may appoint a replacement for the balance of the term of the member he/she is replacing, subject to approval at the next Annual Meeting.
- H. Normally, the term of office for members of the Executive Committee will begin on December 1 of the year in which they were elected and terminate on November 30 of the second year of their term.

IV. Finances

- A. The Association and its programmes shall be self-sustaining.
- B. The annual membership fee will be recommended by the Executive Committee and approved at the Annual Meeting.
- C. Fees for organized activities or programmes will be recommended by the person responsible for the particular activity or programme and approved by the Executive Committee.
- D. The financial year is October 1 to September 30.

V. Programmes and Activities

- A. The Association will work in close cooperation with the Retirement Planning Centre, The Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians, and any other interested group in order to maximize the Association's services to the membership and to avoid possible duplication.
- B. Programmes and activities will be developed and approved by the Executive Committee from suggestions of the members in order to meet the Association's stated objectives and interests.

VI. The Annual Meeting of Members

- A. The Annual Meeting will be held not later than six weeks after the end of the financial year as defined in IV.D. above.
- B. Notice of the date of the Annual Meeting will be sent to all retirees together with the solicitations for nominations all as described in III D above.
- C. A quorum shall be 10% of the current membership but not fewer than 40 members.

VII. Amendments to the Constitution

A. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed either by the Executive Committee or by individual members.

B. Members wishing to propose an amendment to the Constitution are required to submit it in writing to the Executive Committee of the Association.

The Executive Committee is required to present such an amendment to the Annual Meeting of members, indicating whether it supports or does not support the amendment.

C. Any proposed amendment must reach the Executive Committee not later than the first day of the month of September prior to the Annual Meeting.

D. An amendment to the Constitution requires the approval of at least two-thirds of those in attendance at the Annual Meeting.

Revised and approved at AGM, October 25, 2013