

YORK UNIVERSITY RETIREES' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 28, 2022
Via ZOOM Videoconference

YURA Members in attendance:

Sheelagh Atkinson, Romana Bahry, Natasa Bajin, Bruno Bellissimo, Monique Chan-King-Choy, Marla Chodak, Grace Chui, Joy Cohnstaedt, Michael Copeland, Charmaine Courtis, Jane Crescenzi, David Dimick, Steve Dranitsaris, Robert Drummond, Errol Dougan, Margarita Feliciano, Fred Fletcher, Agnes Fraser, Wenona Giles, Margaret Gilligan, Steve Glassman, Jane Grant, Ian Greene (Chair), Richard Grundsten, Walter Heinrichs, Judy Hellman, Steve Hellman, Mariana Kant-Antonescu, Melody King, Sam Lanfranco, Michael Law, Ed Lee-Ruff, John Lennox, David Leyton-Brown, Chantal Lishingman, Vita Lobo, Ian Macdonald, Gina Marasco, Robert McKenzie, Patricia Murray, Susanna Pingitore, Janice Seagrove, Savitsa Sevigny, Harvey Skinner, David Smith, Donna Smith, Karen Solomon, Ted Spence, Patrick Taylor, Lynn Taylor, Mildred Theobalds, Peter Victor, Gerda Wekerle, Fran Wilkinson, Hannah Wilson, John Wilson, Diane Woody (Secretary), Michele Young

Guests: Irvin Studin, Ishan Gambhir

Observers: Amira Hawa, Philippa Marchetti

Regrets: Rosanna Furgiuele, Stan Shapson

Call to order

Ian Greene called the meeting to order at 12:14 p.m. He expressed deep appreciation to guest speaker, Dr. Irvin Studin, for his thought-provoking presentation on Canada's post-pandemic situation and for sharing his personal thoughts on how Canada might think more strategically as it faces multiple crises.

Ian explained that the meeting was being conducted using ZOOM and that he would be projecting various documents, including the agenda and reports from committee members. He reminded attendees that these documents had been posted on the YURA web site a week earlier and announced to the membership by email. Meeting participants were invited to submit questions and comments using the "chat" function or by using the "raise hand" feature of ZOOM. Ian explained further that there would be one single omnibus resolution tabled at the end of the meeting (agenda item #12) to approve the minutes and the Treasurer's Report, to affirm the membership of the Executive Committee for 2022-2023, and to accept all other reports presented at the meeting. At the time of the vote on the single "omnibus" resolution, those who were opposed or who wished to abstain would be asked to do so using the "chat" function; otherwise, favourable votes would be assumed.

1. Remarks from Co-Presidents, Charmaine Courtis and Ian Greene

Charmaine Courtis focused her remarks on the ingenious ways YURA found to adapt to the difficult circumstances of the pandemic as well as to changes at York University. Among highlights of the past year, she mentioned the membership drive, the success of the YURA café and other events, the work done on the YURA website, the re-opening of the office on campus and most of all, the wonderful accomplishment of fund-raising to endow the graduate scholarships. Her remarks are attached at the end of these minutes.

Ian thanked Charmaine for her remarks and praised her for her energy and dedication to YURA.

2. Minutes of the AGM October 29, 2021

Ian referred to the draft version of the minutes of the 2021 AGM, which had been posted on the YURA web site. He asked members to use the “raise hand” feature if they had any queries or suggested changes/corrections to the minutes. None were received. Ian advised that the minutes would be approved under agenda item #12 using the omnibus resolution.

3. Business Arising

Ian Greene advised that items arising from the minutes would generally be covered in the various reports that were to follow and that the agenda would be followed as distributed ahead of time. He invited participants to use either the “chat” function or the “raise hands” feature to share their questions and concerns arising from the various reports to be discussed.

4. Treasurer’s Report

Dave Smith discussed the four documents that had been posted on the YURA web site in advance of the AGM and that were being projected on the screen.

- The letter from the external auditor, Colin Deschamps, who expressed satisfaction following his review of YURA’s financial statements for 2020-2021.
- The Statement of Income and Expenses shows a 2020-2021 positive result of \$2,679. There is a slightly higher positive result of \$3,151 for the 2021-22 year ending September 30, 2022. As the revenue line shows, most in-year income is from membership fees and there is some income from interest-bearing term deposits purchased recently. On the expense side, YURA’s most significant expenses are related to our office and to the scholarships and awards (the three YURA Graduate Student Awards and an annual contribution of \$1,500 to the University’s Access to Education program for middle schools in the local community).
- The Balance Sheet indicates a positive fiscal year-end position of \$51,270.
- The Proposed Operating Budget shows some changes from last year’s plan. The proposed spring event is to be self-funding with revenues being offset by equal expenses. A line has been added for liability insurance now considered a routine item in organizations such as ours. In response to a query, Dave clarified that YURA’s success with fund-raising for the graduate awards (as mentioned by Charmaine in her remarks) means that the fund is now endowed and will itself generate almost all the monies needed each year for the three awards. This explains why he has reduced that expense line to \$1,500 (from \$4,500 in last year’s plan).

In his concluding remarks, Dave indicated that YURA is generally in a good financial position.

5. Affirmation of Executive Committee membership 2022-2023

Ian Greene explained that the process for constituting the membership begins in June each year at which time current members whose two-year terms are expiring are asked to consider renewing for another two-year term. In accordance with the terms of the YURA constitution, Executive members who have served three terms of two years each may not continue and must cycle off the Committee. Vacancies that arise are filled through a nomination process involving Executive Committee members and a call to the entire YURA membership.

For 2022-23, four members will not be continuing, and four new members are joining the Executive. Ian thanked John Lennox, Savitsa Sévigny, and Dave Smith for their service. As well, Ian thanked Charmaine who, having been Co-President Non-Academic from 2016-2022, will continue *ex-officio* as immediate past president. He added that he himself is also stepping down, having been on the Executive since 2016 and having served for five years as Co-President Academic from 2017- 2022.

He then presented the following slate for affirmation (reproduced also in the attachments found at the end of these minutes):

Continuing

Angus Anderson: Member-at-large (2021-23)
Sheelagh Atkinson: Member-at-large (2021-23)
Bruno Bellissimo: Member-at-large (2021-23)
Marla Chodak: Secretary (2021-23)
Agnes Fraser: Member-at-large (2021-23)
Peter Victor: Member-at-large (2021-23)
Diane Woody: Co-president, faculty (2021-23)

Renewing

Jane Grant: Member-at-large (2022-24)
David Leyton-Brown: Member-at-large (2022-24)
Donna Smith: Member-at-large (2022-24)

New Members

Steve Dranitsaris: Co-president, non-faculty (2022-24)*
Rosanna Furgiuele: Member-at-large (2022-24)
Melody King: Treasurer (2022-24)
Stan Shapson: Member-at-large (2022-24)
*Returning as a new member after cycling off the Executive in 2021

For Information:

Ex-Officio

Anne-Marie Ambert: Editor, Newsletter; Facilitator, Person-to-Person
Fred Fletcher: ARFL Representative (Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians)
Charmaine Courtis: Immediate Past Co-president

Retiring

Ian Greene: Co-president, faculty (2016-22)
John Lennox: Immediate Past Co-president (2011-2022)
Savitsa Sévigny: Member-at-large (2018-22)
Dave Smith: Treasurer (2016-22)

6. YURA Activities

Narrative reports for the following areas were posted on the YURA web site in advance of the meeting and are attached at the end of these minutes.

a. Newsletter and Person-to-Person

Steve Dranitsaris expressed appreciation for the outstanding work done by Anne-Marie Ambert. She prepares four annual issues of the Newsletter, the official YURA publication. As well, she prepares the more informal bulletin “Person-to-Person” which reports on matters of interest (travel, health) and delivers chuckles through a humour section. Steve noted Anne Marie’s willingness to increase the number of Person-to-Person bulletins to alleviate the isolation brought on by the COVID pandemic. All YURA members are encouraged to submit articles about personal experiences; newsworthy pieces about retirement; stories and photos of travel, retirement hobbies or involvements; opinions on issues; etc. Anne-Marie’s e-mail address is: ambert.yorku@gmail.com

b. YURA Website

Steve Dranitsaris provided details of the reconstruction and development of the YURA website using WordPress, work in which he has been ably assisted by Ian Greene, Steve

Glassman and Alex Neumann. The site currently has approximately 70 pages and is updated weekly. He used screen shots to guide members through the main tabs of our site and to demonstrate its ease of navigation. He expressed appreciation to Grace Chui, who now volunteers in the YURA office, for her vigilant verification of the links. Steve encouraged everyone to visit the web site regularly. Ian Greene expressed thanks to Michele Young who had created and for several years managed YURA's web site, in its earlier format.

c. Events

Donna Smith informed members that given COVID, most events during the past year were online (e.g., the well-received tour of Osgoode Hall downtown), but that it is hoped that YURA will have an in-person event in the Spring of 2023. For such events, work is being done on a "Voluntary Assumption of Risk" document, as has become the standard in organizations such as YURA. She thanked Fran Wilkinson for hosting and moderating the YURA Café; and Steve Dranitsaris who fills in as host when needed. She noted that the recent café on using the parking app HONK was especially well-received. She mentioned an upcoming seminar to be held on November 21 by the Ontario Securities Commission on the topic of informed financial decision-making and fraud protection. Donna concluded her remarks by noting that she will be convening the Events committee soon to elect a new head, as she herself will be devoting more time to the All University Pension Committee.

d. Scholarly Presentation Skills Workshops

David Leyton-Brown reported that one of the key ways that YURA "gives back to the University" is through the Presentation Skills Workshops. A panel of three retired faculty (one each from Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities) offer constructive feedback to graduate students who give a presentation on their research. The workshops are greatly appreciated. David will be meeting with the Graduate Program Directors in February of 2023 to explain the workshops so that program directors can promote them and recommend them to students who are ready to benefit from the experience. David mentioned that we may well need more faculty panellists and encouraged interested YURA faculty members to contact him by email: dlbrown@yorku.ca.

e. 2022 Charity Challenge Walk

Steve Dranitsaris, this year's team captain, reported that YURA staged 5 km events at High Park on October 4, and in Newmarket on October 14. He announced that more than \$25,000 has been raised by the 11 YURA members who registered for this year's Charity Challenge. Combined with funds previously raised or contributed, the YURA Graduate Student Awards fund is now endowed, a truly stellar accomplishment. He noted that the walks are great fun and build community within YURA in addition to being good for our health and good for our mission of supporting students and giving back to the University. He expressed the hope that our fund-raising walks will continue.

f. Student Awards

Charmaine Courtis reported that the William Small Award and the YURA Mature Student Bursary have been presented to students (two students for each award), as well as two of our three Graduate Student Awards. It is expected that the third Graduate Student Award will be awarded soon. She explained that only first names can be provided in her report (attached below) given privacy concerns.

g. YURA Membership Survey

Ian Greene reported on the membership survey and reminded members that his full report is available on the YURA website. He expressed his appreciation to Ishan Gambhir, the RAY (Research At York) work/study student who was hired to assist with the technical aspects of the survey and compilation of the results. Ian noted that the response rate to our survey was a very impressive 60% and then proceeded to present a few highlights relating to the joys and challenges of retirement, members' reading of the Newsletter and the Person-to-Person bulletins, their consultation of the YURA website and their responses relating to readiness to attend in-person events. Ian thanked everyone for their responses to the survey, and encouraged all to read the report posted on the YURA website. He concluded by noting that the YURA Executive has established a planning sub-committee to identify key findings and recommend appropriate actions.

7. College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC)

Fred Fletcher explained that YURA is a member of CURAC and that he fills a liaison role between the CURAC organization and ARFL and YURA at York University. He has served on the CURAC board for 6 years and noted that CURAC includes 40 retirees' associations in higher education in Canada. He noted proudly that YURA was a founding member of CURAC, and that the two organizations have worked closely together. CURAC supports member surveys (such as the one conducted within YURA), shares best practices, holds an annual conference and speaks publicly on matters affecting retirees. Most recently CURAC has been asked to contribute a column focusing on academic retirees in *University Affairs*. He refers members to his report (attached to these minutes) which outlines CURAC's mission and activities.

Ian Greene called attention to the CURAC awards program and invited John Lennox to describe the many contributions of Anne-Marie Ambert who was honoured with a CURAC Tribute Award in May 2021. John described Anne-Marie's dedication, commitment, and endless energy; he underscored her genuine empathy and irrepressible spirit and noted that her Newsletters and Person-to-Person communications were precious, much-needed means of keeping in touch with members during the pandemic – please see details in the attachment at the end of these minutes.

8. Pension Fund Board of Trustees

Bruno Bellissimo reported on the role of the Pension Fund Board of Trustees, the current asset mix and current returns. The volatility of equities is posing significant challenges and the current returns for the fund this year are negative 13%, well below average returns of past years which have been consistently positive. Board members continue to review and discuss the asset mix. In response to a question, he explained the infrastructure and real estate components of the asset mix. See his report attached at the end of these minutes.

9. All University Pension Committee (AUPC)

Donna Smith, YURA's representative on the AUPC, reported that the Committee typically meets three times per year. Recent discussion has focused on a recommendation to increase the amount set aside for the NRR (Non-Reduction Reserve) Fund which ensures that pensions remain constant regardless of the performance of the pension fund. Actuaries had recommended an increase, but all union groups at York were opposed and it has now been decided that there will be no change this year. Donna reported further that the matter from the 2018-19 YUFA contract minutes of settlement concerning the Minimum Guarantee Portion Indexing Project Plan has been shelved. She mentioned also that she has flagged the issue of long-term retirees with YURA, particularly previous YUSA employees, who are facing financial challenges given current inflation and their low pensions set decades ago without increases or indexation. Details are in Donna's report attached at the end of these minutes.

10. Retirement Planning Services Advisory Board

David Leyton-Brown reported that the Advisory Board typically meets twice per year (although only one meeting has been held in 2022). He noted that Catherine Parks has become the Head of Pensions and Benefits (succeeding Terisa Ducharme who has retired), and that Adele Voci and Shane Dunkley now head Retirement Planning Services. He mentioned that a planning seminar specifically on the CPP had been held on September 29 and that one on the OAS would take place on October 27 as well as a more general “Pension 101” seminar scheduled for November 16.

He referred to slides (attached at the end of these minutes) that showed statistics on the number of one-on-consultations about retirement, and the numbers of retirements in recent years by employment group. He noted that only YUSA shows an increase in the number of retirements above historic levels.

11. Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians (ARFL)

Fred Fletcher reported that YURA and ARFL have many shared priorities that involve representing to the administration the interests and concerns of York retirees. He noted that many members institutions of CURAC have a situation like that at York with both ARFL and YURA to represent the interests of retirees. He encouraged all faculty to join both ARFL and YURA and noted that all YURA members are invited to the presentation by Dr. Pat Armstrong on the topic “I’ll never go into a nursing home” as part of the ARFL Annual General Meeting on Friday November 4th at noon. Fred’s full report is attached at the end of these minutes.

12. Omnibus Resolution to Approve the Minutes and the Treasurer’s Report, to Affirm the Membership of the YURA Executive Committee for 2022-2023 and to Accept All Other Reports

Ian Greene moved, and Ted Spence seconded, this motion. No objections or concerns were conveyed either through the “chat” function or the “raise hands” feature. It was therefore declared that the resolution was adopted unanimously.

13. Other Business

On behalf of the members of the YURA Executive, Steve Dranitsaris expressed appreciation to five Committee members who have completed their terms on the Executive. In non-COVID times, all would have been presented with a white rose at the AGM and applauded for their contributions to YURA. Please see details attached at the end of these minutes.

- Savitsa Sévigny
- Dave Smith
- John Lennox
- Charmaine Courtis
- Ian Greene

14. Adjournment

Ian thanked everyone for their attendance at the AGM. He also thanked Steve Dranitsaris and Ishan Gambhir for their support in arranging the technical details of the online AGM.

On a motion by David Leyton-Brown, seconded by Bob Drummond, the meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.).

Attachments

Remarks from the Co-President (Charmaine Courtis) - Page 8

Treasurer's Report (Dave Smith) - Page 10

External Financial Review Statement, 2020-21 - Page 10

Statement of Income and Expenses, 2021-22 - Page 11

Balance Sheet, 2021-22 - Page 12

Proposed Operating Budget, 2022-23 - Page 13

Slate of Executive Committee Members for 2022-23 (Ian Greene) – Page 14

Report on YURA Newsletter and Person-to-Person (Steve Dranitsaris for Anne-Marie Ambert) - Page 15

Report on YURA Website (Steve Dranitsaris)—Page 15

Report on Events (Donna Smith) - Page 16

Report on Scholarly Presentation Skills Workshops (David Leyton-Brown) - Page 16

Report on 2022 Charity Challenge (Steve Dranitsaris) - Page 17

Report on YURA Student Awards (Charmaine Courtis) - Page 18

Report on YURA Membership Survey (Ian Greene) –Page 20

Report on CURAC and CURAC Award to Anne-Marie Ambert (Fred Fletcher, John Lennox) - Page 20

Report on Pension Fund Board of Trustees (Bruno Bellissimo) - Page 23

Report on All University Pension Committee (Donna Smith) - Page 25

Report on Retirement Services Advisory Board (David Leyton-Brown) - Page 26

Report on YURA and ARFL (Fred Fletcher) - Page 28

Tributes to Members retiring from the YURA Executive Committee (Steve Dranitsaris) – Page 29

Remarks from the Co-Presidents

Agenda #1

Charmaine Courtis

Good morning and welcome to the Annual General Meeting.

My job this morning is to give you comments and paint a picture of what it has been like to work for YURA during a pandemic!! Behind the scenes as it were.

As things began to open up again, in year 2 of the pandemic, I returned most of the “office” to the office! I found a dining room table under all that paper! It was like finding new space in my condo! Not only was I relieved, but I think my husband was as well.... He was beginning to wonder if it was a permanent office.

We opened the YURA office to the public again in late August. And by the beginning of term had a full team of people so that we could staff Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Thanks to Steve Dranitsaris and Agnes Fraser for stepping up. More recently we have added Richard Weisman and Grace Chiu to the mix.

Thankfully, Donna Smith worked with me through the summer to train our new HR helper, Charles Bisram on the membership data base, so that he could help us with inputting our membership renewals and new members’ data. This has been a lengthy process, but as we are nearing the end of the exercise, I believe that he finally understands his role and how he is helping us. Dave Smith has been my go-to back up guy with anything technical... and I have always appreciated that he is there to help if I think I need it.

The membership drive has gone pretty well to date. We have now gone out to current and past members at least twice, and the returns from my email listing and snail mail have resulted in renewals. Finally, Agnes Fraser did a phone blitz with the remaining group not yet renewed last week. I believe there has also been a slight increase in new members which I am happy about. If you are sitting in on this meeting and have not renewed yet.. you know what to do. If you are wanting the complimentary parking, you must file the form with a request for parking if you have not already done so.

Of course, questions can always be directed to the office or our email yura@yorku.ca

We have had zoom coffee hours, thanks to Fran Wilkinson, and interesting Zoom seminars, thanks to Donna Smith and her team over the year. Generally, the tempo has begun to pick up. At this point there is “student presence” on campus, a lot of student life and a new rhythm as you walk around. The ghost town is gone, thankfully. Hopefully, in the not to distant future, we will have live events again for our members to attend. Stay tuned.

Our web site has become an active go to site. Steve Dranitsaris and a small team have been very active in not only the creating the look and feel of the site but also the continued updating of information. If you have not visited the site, I encourage you do so. Thanks to all our “YURA Geeks” for keeping us up to date...

Four years ago, I set myself a goal to turn our YURA Graduate Scholarship Award program into an Endowment program which would in years to come generate scholarship money, long after we are gone... Some of you may remember that AGM. When we started, I was not sure how we would actually raise the 115,000+ we needed. Sitting in the office with John Lennox and Ian Greene, the idea for the Charity Challenge opportunity was raised by Ian. It took us four years of Walking and Charity Challenges but we made it. The fundraising has been successful, and the activity has been a very good social way to meet more members of YURA. Thanks to team leader Steve Dranitsaris and the front-end work that Ian Greene has done. Thanks, big thanks to all of you who have answered our requests for donations and support. Thanks to all who have walked. It has been a rewarding experience down to the last 5 KM. You will hear more about this in detail as we progress through the agenda.

We hope this is the last year that we will have to use Zoom for the AGM. It will be enjoyable to meet next year in person, to have lunch and to catch up personally.

This is my last year as your co-president, as both Ian Greene and I are ending our terms this year. I appreciate all that Ian has done for YURA and for me, his colleague. It has been my honour to serve you. Thank you.

I am now going to turn the meeting over to Ian who will chair the rest of the agenda.

EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S "COMFORT" LETTER

External Review Statement

January 12, 2022

To the Members of the York University Retirees Association

I have reviewed the accompanying Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenue and Expense for the year ended September 30, 2021. These statements are the responsibility of York University Retirees Association (YURA) management.

I have agreed the major revenue and expense items to source documents, and have reconciled the revenue and expense balances to the financial records and bank statements.

I have received satisfactory responses from the YURA management to all questions that arose during the review.

Sincerely



Colin Deschamps, MBA, CMA

YORK UNIVERSITY RETIREES' ASSOCIATION
Statement of Income and Expenses
For the Year Ended September 30, 2022

	Audited 2020/21	Unaudited 2021/22
Income		
Membership Fees	11,932	11,525
Interest (Savings Account & Term Deposit)	96	26
CURAC Rebate	86	0
ARFL re seminar	226	0
Donations	100	0
Game Sales	100	0
Total Income	12,539	11,551
Expenses		
York Foundation - Bursary/Awards	4,500	4,500
CEC Access to Post Secondary	1,500	1,500
Events:		
AGM	675	250
Seminar	452	0
Administration:		
AROHE Membership Fee	302	154
CURAC Membership Fee	300	300
Honorarium - Auditor	300	150
Office Equipment	226	0
Office/Computer Supplies	664	0
Printing/Photocopying	302	601
Phone	573	573
Petty Cash	0	0
Postage	0	340
Miscellaneous	66	32
Total Expenses	2,733 <u>9,860</u>	2,150 <u>8,400</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	<u>2,679</u>	<u>3,151</u>

YORK UNIVERSITY RETIREES' ASSOCIATION
 2022/23 Proposed Budget
 [with comparative figures for 2021/22]

REVENUE		2022/23 Proposed Budget	2021/22 Proposed Budget
Events	Membership Fees	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 12,500.00
	Niagara Winery Tour	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
	Spring Events	\$ 5,500.00	\$ -
	Stratford Theatre	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
	Total Revenue	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 22,500.00
EXPENSES			
Awards	CEC - Access to Post Secondary	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
	York Bursary/ Awards	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Events	AGM	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,500.00
	Spring Events	\$ 5,500.00	\$ -
	Niagara Winery Tour	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
	Stratford Theatre	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
	Walkathon	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
Admin	AROHE Membership	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
	Auditor Honorarium	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
	Bank Charges	\$ 20.00	\$ 80.00
	CURAC Conference Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	CURAC Membership Fee	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
	Liability Insurance	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
	Office Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
	Printing & Photocopying	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
	Telephone/Long Distance	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
	Contingency	\$ 530.00	\$ 770.00
	Total Expenses	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 22,500.00

Executive Committee Membership 2022-23

Agenda # 5

Ian Greene

For affirmation by YURA membership at AGM October 28, 2022

Continuing

Angus Anderson: Member-at-large (2021-23)

Sheelagh Atkinson: Member-at-large (2021-23)

Bruno Bellissimo: Member-at-large (2021-23)

Marla Chodak: Secretary (2021-23)

Agnes Fraser: Member-at-large (2021-23)

Peter Victor: Member-at-large (2021-23)

Diane Woody: Co-president, faculty (2021-23)

Renewing

Jane Grant: Member-at-large (2022-24)

David Leyton-Brown: Member-at-large (2022-24)

Donna Smith: Member-at-large (2022-24)

New Members

Steve Dranitsaris: Co-president, non-faculty (2022-24) *

Rosanna Furgiuele: Member-at-large (2022-24)

Melody King: Treasurer (2022-24)

Stan Shapson: Member-at-large (2022-24)

For Information

Ex-Officio

Anne-Marie Ambert: Editor, Newsletter; Facilitator, Person-to-Person

Fred Fletcher: ARFL Representative (Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians)

Charmaine Courtis: Immediate Past Co-president

Retiring

Ian Greene, Co-president, faculty (2016-2022)

John Lennox, Immediate Past Co-president (2011-2022)

Savitsa Sévigny, Member-at-large (2018-2022)

Dave Smith, Treasurer (2016-2022)

* Returning as a new member after cycling off the Executive in 2021

YURA Newsletter and the PTP (Person-to-Person) Bulletin

Agenda # 6 a)

Report to the YURA AGM, October 28, 2022

Anne-Marie Ambert, Editor

By the time of the AGM, the usual four yearly Newsletters will have been published. The Newsletters are YURA's official publication in which appear the co-presidents' report and any other report that the Executive Committee deems necessary to incorporate. In non-COVID times, this has included a segment In Memoriam as well as a list of New Members.

The remainder of the Newsletter contains material contributed by our membership or by the Editor (myself). These contents always include a Reminiscence or what we call "Life as it was back then" in which members and, at times, friends, reminisce about their childhood and youth. Other articles of interest appear and range from travelogues, to timely articles, opinion pieces, book and film reviews, and a small humour section. The Newsletter is a quarterly.

It is complemented by an informal bulletin, entitled Person-to-Person or PTP, which was designed for YURA members to exchange information of a more personal nature, on health issues, for instance. It includes brief articles, links to scientific literature of helpful health and lifestyle topics, suggestions for travel and other activities. It also contains quite a bit of irreverent humour in the form of "chuckles" and cartoons.

The PTP generally appears once a month, occasionally twice a month. However, during COVID times, it has been published more frequently to include more levity in our lives.

I am always looking for contributions for either publication. I can be contacted at ambert.yorku@gmail.com

YURA Web Site

Agenda Item #6 b)

Report to the YURA AGM, October 28, 2022

Steve Dranitsaris

The YURA web site, re-constructed in 2021 using a new platform of Wordpress following York University design and accessibility standards, continues to be managed by a Web Site Group consisting of Steve Dranitsaris, Steve Glassman, Ian Greene and Alex Neumann.

Every effort is made to update the web site on a weekly basis. The front page features announcements of interest to YURA members with appropriate links to additional details, forms and, as applicable, registration information.

The web site has more than 70 pages, including everything you need to know about YURA, membership information and privileges, events and programs, and a section called "Retiring at York" which contains links to Pension & Benefits, retiree benefits booklets, other university retiree associations, and a guide to government web sites.

At present, we are working at enhancing access to event information on the web site's "Front Page."

We anticipate YURA members will come to rely on the web site as their primary communication medium with the Association.

For all the up-to-date news about YURA and upcoming activities, please visit the YURA web site at: <https://www.yorku.ca/yura/>

Events Committee

Agenda Item #6 c)

Report to the YURA AGM, October 28, 2022

Donna Smith

With the COVID pandemic continuing, in-person events were not scheduled for 2021-22. This included the usual theatre trips to Stratford and Shaw. This situation will be revisited and monitored, and we are hopeful to offer at least one in-person event in 2022-23.

YURA Café was held online monthly on Tuesday mornings from 10 – 11 AM and covered many timely topics including politics, books, travel and health related issues. The conversations are always interesting. Guest participants have included Dr. Harvey Skinner (leading simple stress busting exercises), Donna Hubbert and Tanya Thompson from the Parking Office (demonstrating how to use the HONK mobile app), and coming up in November, Gary Brewer from the York University Development Corporation, will talk about the development of the Markham campus. Dates for discussions are posted on the YURA website www.yorku.ca/yura

Thanks to our regular moderator Fran Wilkinson who has graciously agreed to continue for another year, and to Steve Dranitsaris who fills in when required.

An online tour of Osgoode Hall was provided by the Law Society of Ontario for YURA members on February 23, 2022. This was an excellent behind the scenes visit (although virtual) to one of Toronto's iconic buildings.

The revamped YURA website – www.yorku.ca/yura -- provides up-to-date information on all YURA-sponsored events as well as other campus events and online lecture series like the Scholar's Hub @ Home and The York Circle @ Home to which YURA members are invited. Sincere thanks to Steve Dranitsaris for ensuring that the information is posted in a timely manner and is easy to locate online.

We are always looking for ideas for both online and in-person events and request that you please send your suggestions to djsmith612@gmail.com

Scholarly Presentation Skills Workshops

Agenda Item #6 d)

Report to the YURA AGM, October 28, 2022

David Leyton-Brown

A workshop for York University graduate students to rehearse and hone their presentation skills was held via Zoom on April 28, 2022. YURA members Bill Whitla, Ron Pearlman and David Leyton-Brown responded and gave advice from their respective disciplinary backgrounds in the Humanities, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences.

Though four student presentations covering a similarly broad range of disciplines were scheduled, one withdrew shortly before the session, and another did not show up, so only two actual presentations were given by:

- Nora Romero (Biology) on “Morphological Phylogeny of the bee genus *Liphanthans* Reed”
- Sarah Marsh (Sociology) on “Who deserves health care: an exploration of the contestation and negotiation strategies of health care advocates”

A number of other graduate students attended purely to observe, demonstrating the high level of interest in the workshop.

We are working with the Faculty of Graduate Studies to schedule another such workshop in the spring of 2023.

2022 Charity Challenge sponsored by TCS

Agenda Item #6 e)

Report to the YURA AGM, October 28, 2022

Steve Dranitsaris

For the fourth straight year, the York University Retirees' Association (YURA) participated in the Toronto Marathon Charity Challenge to raise funds for graduate student awards at the University. This year, the Charity Challenge has had a new lead sponsor: TCS (Tata Consultancy Services), taking over from Scotiabank. With the help of York's Advancement Office, YURA again applied and was approved as an eligible charity in the program.

For the 2022 Charity Challenge, York's ten registered participants were given the option of walking or running a minimum of 5 km on their own (e.g., in their own neighbourhood) as a “virtual” charity challenge; or in one of two 5 km walk events organized by YURA, one held at High Park on October 4 and the other on the Tom Taylor Trail in Newmarket on October 14.



Members of YURA's team at High Park on October 4th

Participants registered for the Charity Challenge through a fundraising page generated by Race Roster, an online app; and then sought sponsorships from former colleagues and co-workers, family and friends. York University issued charitable tax receipts for sponsor donations. The 2022 YURA team has

raised a total of \$25,691 for the graduate student awards. Thanks to YURA co-president, Ian Greene, for organizing this year's team entry. Fundraising participants included retirees Charmaine Courtis, Steve Dranitsaris (team captain), Natasa Bajin, Peter Victor, David Dimick, Marla Chodak, Fran Wilkinson, Agnes Fraser and Donna Smith as well as Maggie Quirt, a professor in the Equity Studies department who has taken an enthusiastic interest in this cause. Special thanks to the additional supporters who joined the YURA team for the 5 km walks.



Members of the YURA team on the Tom Taylor Trail in Newmarket on a much colder October 14^h

YURA is committed to help make getting an education possible for deserving students who struggle financially. Over the past four years, YURA has raised enough money for the endowed fund which will support in perpetuity the three YURA Graduate Student Awards given annually. More than \$115,000 has been raised for this endowment, with \$85,000 of the funds raised having been generated by participants in the Charity Challenge over the past four years.

Student Awards

Agenda Item #6 f)

Report to YURA AGM, October 28, 2022

Charmaine Courtis

In each of these awards there is a financial need component. Because of this, we are not able to publish full names of the award recipients without written permission.

The William W. Small Award

Multiple awards will be awarded by the York University Retirees Association (YURA) to mature undergraduate students who have sustained, after at least nine credits, a grade point average of 7.00 or above. Preference will be given to students who have a clear focus on their program of study and their selection of courses. Recipients must be Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons, residents of Ontario and demonstrate financial need. William W. Small was the second employee hired at York University after its first president Dr. Murray Ross in 1960. As vice-president of University Services, 1964-1973, he oversaw the design and construction of 36 of the University's buildings. He was a founding member of York's Retirement Planning Centre.

Student Name	Program	Year	Award Amount
Lauren	Faculty of Health, B.Sc., Spec. Hons. Kinesiology & Health Science	2021/22	\$1,500
Keili	Faculty of Health, B.A., Hons. Psychology	2021/22	\$1,500
Total			\$3,000

York University Retirees' Association Mature Student Bursary

Awarded to multiple mature students in any undergraduate Faculty, including Osgoode. The recipients must be Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons, and Ontario residents with demonstrated financial need.

Student Name	Program	Year	Award Amount
Nitant	Lassonde School of Engineering, B.Eng., Spec. Hons. Computer Engineering	2021/22	\$1,815
Long	Lassonde School of Engineering, B.Eng., Spec. Hons. Software Engineering (Big Data)	2021/22	\$1,815
Total			\$3,630

York University Retirees' Association Graduate Student Award

The York University Retirees' Association Graduate Award will be granted to a full-time master's student in either the first or second year of their master's program. The candidate must have achieved a minimum academic standing of B+ and must show financial need. The candidate must also demonstrate either a strong commitment to volunteerism in the community or active engagement in a student leadership role while in the Master's program.

Student Name	Program	Year	Award Amount
Andrea	Glendon Campus, Masters in Public and International Affairs	2021/22	\$1,500
Guoxuan	MEd, Education	2021/22	\$1,500
Total			\$3,000

As we approach the Annual General Meeting, the Faculty of Graduate Studies will be sending out another call for applications for the YURA Graduate Student Award so that a

third award can presented for the 2021-2022 cycle. With COVID and the absence of students on campus, it has been difficult to reach all eligible students to consider. A further \$1,500 will be awarded before December 2022.

YURA Membership Survey

Agenda Item #6 g)

Report to YURA AGM, October 28, 2022

Ian Greene

YURA Survey, 2022: Report to Members, appears as a separate link on the AGM web page or at:

<https://www.yorku.ca/yura/wp-content/uploads/sites/243/2022/10/221002-YURA-Survey-Report-to-Members-FINAL.pdf>

Agenda Item #7

College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) / Associations des retraités des universités et collèges du Canada (ARUCC)

Report to YURA AGM, October 28, 2022

Fred Fletcher, Chair, Communications Committee, CURAC/ARUCC

CURAC is an association of some 40 retiree associations (RAs) at post-secondary institutions across Canada. YURA is a founding member and a model for other associations. The mission of CURAC includes promoting and sharing information among member associations, encouraging the growth and development of member associations and speaking publicly on issues of importance to its member RAs (representing more than 18,000 individual members).

As a result of the pandemic, the 2021 and 2022 AGM and annual conference were held via zoom and, for the first time as separate events. Links to the excellent presentations are posted on the website (www.curac.ca). The conferences were attended by between 140 and 220 from across the country. Planning is underway for a return to in-person events in 2023 using a hybrid model to make attendance easier. The events will include a celebration of CURAC'S 20th anniversary.

In return for a modest membership fee (\$300 per annum for larger associations such as YURA), CURAC provides a number of services. Fuller information on these services is provided on the website). Here is a brief summary:

- An annual conference – open to all individual members of CURAC associations – and AGM that promote networking, sharing of best practices and learning from expert presentations
- Reports on pensions and benefits affecting member RAs, available on the CURAC website

- A website redesign is planned, with the goal of making it an **information hub** for post-secondary retirees and their associations
- The content and delivery of information from CURAC to RA associations and their members is being reviewed
- As part of its commitment to promoting communication among member RAs, an events calendar has been added to the website where member RAs can post information about up-coming “later-life learning” events
- Bulletins on health-related issues relevant to RA members (and seniors in general)
- A recent initiative is the publication of a monthly column on the roles and activities of academic retirees in University Affairs Magazine (online) to begin soon
- Advice and support from CURAC standing committees
- Liaison with academic institutions (including granting agencies) and organizations representing seniors across Canada and in the United States and Europe
- Discounts and opportunities for CURAC members
 - ◊ Travel planning and access to special tours
 - ◊ Extended health benefit insurance
 - ◊ Travel / trip cancellation and interruption insurance
 - ◊ Home and auto insurance (and even pet insurance)

For organizations negotiating with their institutions, the periodic survey of CURAC member organizations regarding the benefits available to their members is particularly useful. The next survey is in the planning stage.

CURAC’s membership in the U.S.-based Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) provides access to post-retirement practices and benefits at American universities that is shared in the CURAC Newsletter.

Questions about CURAC may be addressed to me (ffletch@yorku.ca) or secretary@curac.ca.

CURAC Tribute Award to Anne-Marie Ambert

John Lennox

Anne-Marie is the ideal combination of member and volunteer. When the editorship of the YURA newsletter fell vacant in 2011, it was Anne-Marie who, unbidden, stepped forward to ask if she might have the opportunity to do the job. What YURA did not know was that “opportunity” in Anne-Marie’s lexicon is defined by total commitment, endless energy, a way with people, humour -- and all these qualities complemented by a signature panache and style that have marked the newsletter during the ten years of her curacy. She has increased the number of issues to four per year (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer) and initiated

a regular “Reminiscences” column where members write of their childhood and adolescence. Anne-Marie herself was a contributor. The premise was original – who were you before you became the public, professional you? The pieces submitted have been uniformly fascinating and personable.

Members have contributed other features besides the reminiscence section. One stand-out was the fascinating account of being a crew member on an Atlantic sailing ship as it made its way north from South Africa. She is always open to member contributions. As editor, Anne-Marie has supplied book and film reviews and notes on a variety of health and human issues. She added a humour section to the newsletter which is not only very funny, but bears Anne-Marie’s love of wit, marvel at the human comedy, and, often, political point.

Another of her initiatives that appeared when she became editor was the launching of a new on-line, monthly publication, Person-to-Person or PTP. It is a members-only bulletin related to health, well-being, and specific social and medical issues related to aging. Members are invited to participate with reports, questions, and responses related to concerns and preoccupations of YURA members. It is very popular and is routinely passed on by our members to friends and relations. During Covid, Anne-Marie has often published two issues per month because she is acutely aware of the value of communication in and of itself. She also is convinced that such information and simply reaching-out are more acutely needed than ever in Covid times like these.



Anne-Marie Ambert

It is really quite challenging to place adequate emphasis on what Anne-Marie’s work means and has meant to our Association. She is motivated by a genuine empathy for others and her understanding of how keeping in touch is a lifeline. During our recent membership drive, she undertook to reach by telephone 100 of our members to encourage them to renew. She did so out of sheer good will and got results. Initially a software “rookie,” Anne-Marie embraced the drudgery of putting in the hours to learn how to set pages, make edits, and incorporate graphics and illustrations to make a publication both professional and pleasing to the eye. She has dedicated even more hours when software is updated, and she has done so in spite of her own vision challenges.

The defining quality of the newsletter and the PTP is spirit, that is, the energy and joy that emanate from their pages. These publications lift the spirit of the Association’s members not only through painstaking attention to their contents but through the vivacious tone of the endlessly curious, editorial hand. We talk very easily these days of the importance of communication while often taking for granted its human dimension. Anne-Marie Ambert has never forgotten that dimension. In fact, it’s her fundamental *raison-d’être*. YURA, its members, and the publications that she single-handedly oversees are all the richer for it.

For all the reasons enumerated in this letter of nomination, Anne-Marie Ambert has our unequivocal support as a candidate eminently worthy of recognition by the CURAC Tribute Award.

**York University Pension Fund Board of Trustees
Report to the YURA AGM, October 28, 2022**

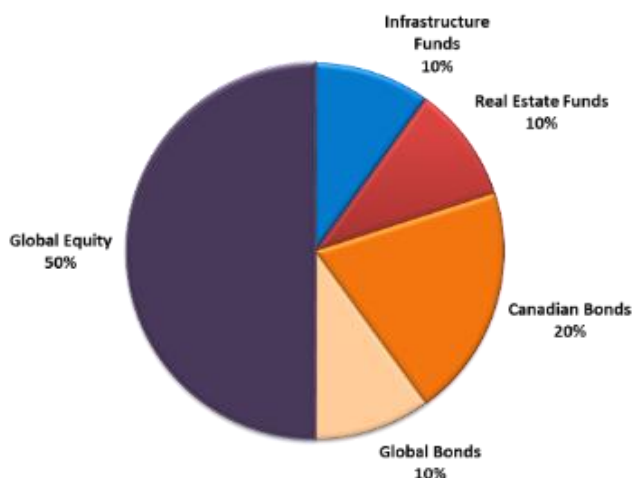
Agenda Item #8
Bruno Bellissimo

ROLE

- I am your nominee on the Pension Fund Board of Trustees (BOT)
- Our role as Trustees is to oversee the investments of the Fund
- This means ensuring that the money is prudently and effectively deployed to give the best returns possible while managing risk
- In carrying out this role we are supported by the Pension Fund Investment Committee composed of exterior experts in the field of banking and investment management
- The BOT meets at least quarterly to review the investment returns and to approve the hiring of investment firms - our money managers across the world, and the allocation of funds etc.
- We also approve the audited financial statements and Actuarial Assessment

INVESTMENTS

Asset Mix Policy

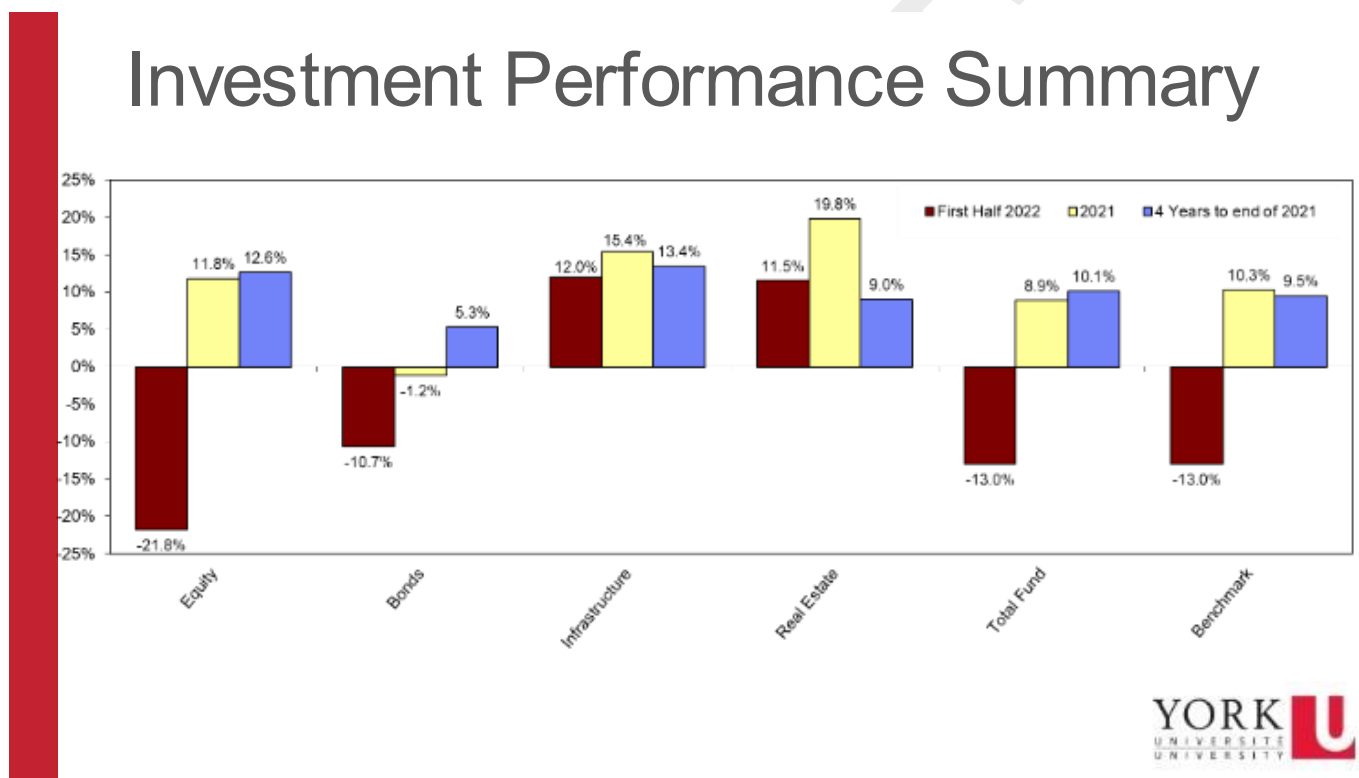


This first slide shows how the fund is being investment in terms of asset classes

Our objective is to ensure that the fund is well diversified to obtain the best returns while withstanding volatility in the marketplace.

Over the years, we have moved away from higher risk equity investments by introducing investments in infrastructure and real estate. We also carry a health amount of quality bond investment.

RETURNS



The second slide shows the returns by asset class over the years.

Looking at the slide, you will see that the results over the last 4 years have been excellent with returns over 10.1% per year. We have done well relative to others in our benchmark group with returns at 9.5%.

Last calendar year's returns were solid at 8.9%. We underperformed others in our benchmark group which show average returns of 10.3%.

Results for 2022 have been poor reflecting the turbulence in the world due to the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the resulting inflationary pressures. Our pension fund is not immune from the high volatility in world markets and interest rate increases.

To the end of June 2022, the overall fund results were around -13.0 % with equities down 21.8%. Returns on the real estate and infrastructure were a healthy 11.5 % and 12.0 % respectively.

While the diversity in the fund has dampened the impact of world equity and bond markets, more diversity might have to be added.

All University Pension Committee (AUPC)
Report to YURA AGM, October 28, 2022

Agenda Item #9
Donna Smith

The All University Pension Committee (AUPC) is an advisory committee to the Vice-President Finance & Administration and serves as a forum where representatives of plan members may learn about, review, discuss and make recommendations on pension benefit issues.

The AUPC is comprised of twelve members, one of which is appointed by YURA. Due to the ongoing COVID issues, the committee again met over Zoom for 2022 on January 24, July 12 and October 19.

AUPC met on July 12, 2022 with the plan actuaries. An update was provided on the Pension Valuation.

The main item on the agenda continues to be the funding of the Non-Reduction Reserve (NRR) which guarantees pensions remain constant, and do not dip below current payment received regardless of the market return on the funds in the York Pension Plan. Currently, when an employee retires, 5% of the money purchase component of the employee's pension is removed and put into the non-reduction reserve before the individual pension is calculated. This is a matter which does not affect current retirees as pensions are set at time of retirement.

Plan actuaries have recommended that the amount contributed to the NRR be increased and have suggested an amount of 10%. There is considerable concern on the part of the active members regarding this change.

The University has decided not to move forward the recommendation to change the NRR calculation at this time due to current market volatility coming out of the pandemic. The pension plan actuary will continue to monitor the situation and may provide reports of this action to the University. The matter may be revisited at a future date.

The outstanding item from 2018-19 is resolved. The Minimum Guarantee Portion Indexing Project Plan arising from the minutes of settlement with the York University Faculty Association (YUFA) in October 2018 will not move forward.

Donna Smith is the YURA representative on AUPC.

Pension & Benefits Office Changes

Catherine Parks has become the head of the Pension and Benefits Office. She will remain a member of the Advisory Board, but responsibility for Retirement Planning Services will now be taken by Adele Voci and Shayne Dunkley.

2022 Statistics

Active Employees in Pension Plan by Age Group

Age Range	Number of Employees in Pension Plan
70	27
66-69	186
60-65	658
55-59	699
45-54	1420
under 45	1841

Data accurate to August 31, 2022

Retirements

	Total	CPM	YUSA	YUFA/OSG	CUPE 1356	Other **
2022	123	21	48	23	15	16
2021	190	29	65	53	13	30
2020	149	27	40	51	9	22
2019	160	29	43	45	15	28
2018	171	24	51	43	20	33
2017	164	21	37	57	13	36
2016	157	24	40	54	8	31
2015	165	18	45	50	5	47
2014	155	27	51	50	8	19
2013	125	16	25	44	11	29
2012	116	23	31	38	7	17

Data accurate to August 31, 2022

Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians (ARFL) – York University
Report to YURA AGM, October 28, 2022

Fred Fletcher

As most York retirees are aware, we have two retiree associations. ARFL is the “other” one. While YURA encompasses all York University retirees, ARFL represents retirees who were members of YUFA (faculty and librarians). YURA and ARFL share three important priorities:

- To represent to the administration the interests and concerns of York’s retirees
- To preserve and enhance a sense of community among York’s retirees
- To assist retirees in continuing to contribute to York as an institution

Not surprisingly, therefore, both institutions bring in speakers, contribute to scholarships, and volunteer in a variety of capacities. ARFL, for example, supports the Lee Lorch Memorial Scholarship for Indigenous students.

In the context of these goals, the executives of both organizations are in regular communication, assisted by the fact that each executive committee appoints an ex officio non-voting member of the other committee. In addition, both organizations are members of CURAC.

Of course, the level of attention given to the three priorities differs. For example, ARFL’s mandate is to represent the interests of retirees within YUFA and, where appropriate, to the administration. Much attention is devoted to preparing for collective bargaining and dealing with issues around pensions and benefits. On the other hand, YURA devotes considerably more effort to various forms of community-building, organizing outings and other activities. We continue to explore areas of potential collaboration.

The current focus of the ARFL Executive is on the collective bargaining process, working closely with the YUFA Executive to protect the interests of current and future retirees. The ARFL priority is to protect and expand post-retirement benefits for YUFA retirees.

The 2022 ARFL AGM will be held Friday November 4 and will feature a presentation by **Dr. Pat Armstrong**, Distinguished Research Professor Emerita in Sociology and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, entitled “**I’ll Never Go into a Nursing Home....**” The business meeting will begin at 10:30 am and the presentation will be from noon to 1:30pm. YURA members are welcome. The link will be posted on the ARFL website.

ARFL also holds a General Membership meeting in the spring to bring members up to date. The speaker last May was Dr. **Sheila Cote-Meek**, York Vice President for People, Culture and Equity. The topic was “**A Seat at the Table: Creating Space for Indigenous Epistemologies in the Academy**” about indigenous perspectives on knowledge.

As far as we can tell, most members of ARFL are also members of YURA. Given the minimal annual dues for each, the executive of ARFL recommends that all eligible York retirees join both.

Fred Fletcher (ffletch@yorku.ca) is the ARFL representative on the YURA Executive Committee.

White Rose Tributes - Thanking those cycling off the YURA Executive



Savitsa Sévigny

**Executive Committee
Member-at-large**

- YURA Executive Committee member, for two terms, 2018 to 2022.
- Attended Executive meetings and provided helpful input to discussion of issues and plans



Dave Smith

Treasurer

- YURA Executive Committee member, for three terms, 2016 to 2022.
- Served as Treasurer and Officer of the Association for all six years; prepared reports for all Executive meetings & AGMs; arranged annual external auditor review of finances.
- Volunteered and coordinated cash-handling and financial reporting at YURA Showcase events.
- Designed and supported the YURA membership database; worked with University IT and HR departments to create distributed, server based files and applications for YURA volunteers/leaders.
- Significant contributor during the pandemic in membership processing, reconciliation of registrations and reporting, including introduction of e-transfer payments.

John Lennox

Immediate Past President

- YURA Executive Committee member since 2011, serving as Academic Co-President for five years, 2012-2017 and as Immediate Past Co-President (ex-officio) for an additional five years.
- Volunteer staff member weekly in the YURA Office throughout.
- Initiated YURA's Scholarly Presentation Skills Workshops program with FGS, helped organize and volunteered at the annual Showcase events, supported YURA fundraising initiatives for student awards, participated in the Charity Challenge walks, managed the YURA email list-serve, helped organize and lead YURA theatre outings to Stratford and Shaw, was YURA's liaison with CURAC re: Later Life Learning project.
- Assisted Anne-Marie Ambert with final editing and proofing of the YURA Newsletter.
- Always the source of knowledge about YURA; also, the facilitative voice of reason and caution during meetings of the YURA Executive and working groups; authored many finesseful communications.
- Much behind-the-scenes work with University administrators and in recruiting YURA Exec members.
- John's has been among the most significant contributions in YURA's history.



Charmaine Courtis

Co-President, Non-Academic



- YURA Executive Committee member since 2015, served as YURA Co-President, Non-Academic for the past six years, 2016-2022. Significant leadership and communication as Co-President.
- Since becoming Co-President in 2016, has been a volunteer weekly in the YURA Office, coordinated membership application and renewal processes, created an annual workflow document to guide the activities of office volunteers, organized arrangements for the in-person AGMs, helped organize and volunteered at annual Showcase events, assisted with theatre outings to Stratford and Shaw.

- Principally coordinated membership processing from her home during the Pandemic, including all banking, campus mail pick-up, and deliveries to and from YURA’s admin staff support and Treasurer.
- Created a Student Awards portfolio for YURA; initiated an annual fundraising appeal for YURA members to support student awards and campus outreach projects; shepherded YURA’s campaign to endow the three YURA Graduate Student Awards given annually; led all YURA fundraising participants in dollars raised in the four Charity Challenge events, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.
- Has agreed to continue on the Executive as Immediate Past President, ex-officio.

Ian Greene
Co-President, Academic



- YURA Executive Committee member since 2016, served as Co-President Academic for five years, 2017-2022. Significant leadership and communication as Co-President.
- Attended YURA office weekly, coordinated YURA office IT requirements with York U’s IT department.
- Assumed coordination and content updating of the old YURA web site and continues to serve on coordinating group for the new YURA web site.
- Suggested Toronto Waterfront Marathon Charity Challenge as a YURA scholarship fundraiser and organized YURA’s team entry for all 4 years. Participated in the 5 km walks.
- Has arranged guest speakers for all six AGMs since he joined the YURA Executive in 2016; has organized and moderated the “virtual” AGMs during the COVID era.
- Coordinated the 2022 YURA member survey, analysis of responses, and prepared the summary report.
- Represented YURA on Advisory Board for York U Centre for Aging Research & Education (YU-CARE), as an alternate on ARFL’s executive, at York events such as Remembrance Day wreath laying and volunteered at YURA Showcase events. Chaired annual nominations process for YURA Executive Committee.