

Joint Financial Information Subcommittee Update for YUFA members: September 20, 2023

The following request for financial information was made on August 1, 2023. In the absence of a response, YUFA filed a grievance on September 8, 2023. On September 18, 2023, we were informed that the employer was declining to provide the information requested.

Information requested:

An update on the Office of the Auditor-General of Ontario's value-for-money audit at York University, including a copy of the finalized terms of engagement provided by the OAGO to York University, the information requested by the OAGO, an indication of what fieldwork has been carried out by the OAGO to date, and if applicable, a copy of the OAGO's briefing document to York University summarizing key audit findings for auditee senior management. **Rationale:** Given the projected deficit and the cost-cutting measures proposed by the administration, YUFA members are increasingly concerned about issues of financial management. Previous reports by the OAGO on Laurentian University and other Ontario universities have highlighted the importance of communication of financial information to faculty members, and the value-for-money audit provides an opportunity for York University to keep its faculty members informed.

Information on the use of expensive outside consultants for the period 2020 to the present, including (1) a list of external consultants hired each year (including outside legal counsel) by the University; (2) the amounts paid to each consulting firm each year; (3) the service the external consultant was asked to provide; (4) the rationale for hiring each consultant ; and (5) the process in place for assessing the need for the outside consultant in terms of service provided and cost-effectiveness and for authorising the hiring. **Rationale:** The YUFA Governance Subcommittee (https://www.yufa.ca/yufa_governance_committee) expressed concerns about the use of expensive outside consultants, such as NOUS and Organizational Solutions Incorporated (OSI). Access to this information is not available through the university's consolidated financial statements. Faculty members are concerned about the role of NOUS in strategic and academic planning for some faculties at York and the resulting academic restructuring measures. The cost-effectiveness of the use outside consultants was also highlighted by the OAGO in its report on Laurentian University. OCUFA is also undertaking a survey on Private Consultant Interference in University Operations to which we would like to contribute meaningfully.

Information on the financial relationship between York University and the York University Development Corporation, including any revenues obtained and expenses incurred by the University via the YUDC. **Rationale:** This is a follow-up on the YUFA Governance Committee's report on the role of the YUDC in capital expansion and concerns about its financial accountability: https://assets.nationbuilder.com/yufa/pages/566/attachments/original/1686232195/2023-06-02_Approved_at_May_26_Exec_YUDC_Report_on_Governance_Condensed_REV2%282%29.pdf?1686232195

YUFA members of the Joint Financial Information Subcommittee,
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