

1. That the YUFA Trust provide full-course release funding for a two-year period to cover the cost of the Advance Credit Experience (ACE) Coordinator Position (\$18,000 per year for 2 years). The position will be open to YUFA members.
2. That the YUFA Trust provide renewable annual funding of \$10,000 to contribute to the operating costs of the ACE Program in place of the \$5,000 it has traditionally provided.

### ***Background and Rationale***

The latest YUFA Trust Fund annual report including more details concerning ACE can be found at [www.yorku.ca/pevans](http://www.yorku.ca/pevans).

The ACE Program supports Jane-Finch high school students enrolled in a first-year York course. Since the inception of ACE in 2003, YUFA and the YUFA Trust Fund have played a central role in creating, coordinating, and funding the ACE Program. Especially important for ACE is the 1.4 million dollar YUFA endowment which funds scholarships when the students enrol at York. Recent cutbacks at both the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and in the Faculty of Education at York have put the ACE Program in jeopardy. The jointly-funded Westview Partnership which handled the coordination of ACE has been disbanded due to funding constraints, by mutual consent of the TDSB and the Faculty of Education. This has orphaned ACE both institutionally, as well as in terms of the funding, with regard to the coordinator position. Despite very enthusiastic support for ACE from area high schools and from units within York who support the Coop Placement Program, and despite the fact that funding from the TDSB and from YUFA that covers the costs of tuition and other costs remains in place, the program is at risk of closing if the coordinator position cannot be funded.

Over the Fall Term of 2013, new institutional support for the ACE Program has been found in the Centre for Education and Community (CEC). Carl James, the Director of the CEC, is very enthusiastic about housing the coordinator position in the CEC, and Associate Dean of Education Celia Haig-Brown is supportive of this arrangement. The only issue that remains is finding the equivalent of a full-course release funding (\$18,000) to cover the cost of the ACE Coordinator. Private funders who have provided ongoing support for ACE, such as Foyston, Gordon, and Payne Investment Managers, have been approached, but are reluctant to provide funding to an institution for a course release. Similarly, YUFA funders have been reluctant in the past, as well, to give money to York, as opposed to providing support for students and for community organizations doing social justice work. At the same time, there has been an ongoing discussion in the YUFA Community Projects Committee about whether YUFA should “take ownership” of certain programs so they can be guaranteed ongoing stable funding in a world where grants are becoming increasingly precarious. Given how much YUFA has invested in ACE over the years, and how clearly successful it has been in encouraging students to come to university, it would be a shame to see it fail now. For this reason, the YUFA Trust is being approached for a commitment of funding for the ACE Coordinator position that would, in turn, be open to interested and qualified YUFA members.

There will be collaboration between the organizers of ACE, including the new coordinator, and the Advancement Office to secure permanent endowment funding.

The second motion allows for more efficient allocation of responsibilities between two related but different organizations – the YUFA Trust Fund and YUFA through the Community Projects Committee. Each has traditionally contributed \$5,000 to each of ACE and Readers to Leaders for a total of \$20,000. It is proposed to change how the amount is allocated so that all funding provided to ACE will flow through the YUFA Trust Fund and all funding for Readers to Leaders will be arranged by the Community Projects Committee. This proposal involves no net increase in costs to either.