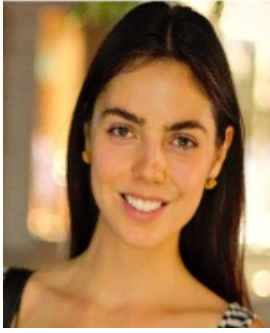


## ELECTION 2019

### Graduate/Professional Student Nominees to the York University Board of Governors



**Kirsten Andersen**

There is a deep disconnect between the Board of Governors and the substantive representation of the York University community interest writ large. The choices made by Board of Governors impact students, faculty members, and workers alike, yet these various stakeholders are not meaningfully consulted or represented in the Board's decision-making processes. My primary motivation for running for the Board's graduate student representative position is to challenge the Board's current prioritization of private and corporate interests by advocating for those issues most important to York's broader community.

As a student representative, I would take up an agenda to address both the symbolic and material shortcomings of the Board's composition and determinations. This includes bringing more a diverse membership to the Board, advancing the goals of student-led campaigns like Fossil Free York and YorkU Divest, attending to the dilapidated building and infrastructure on campus, moving towards improved public transit on campus and a system-wide integrated fare, and resisting the recent changes to Ontario post-secondary education policy by the provincial government.

In my time at York I have had the opportunity to be a student, tutorial leader, and union member, and through these different roles I have gained insight into what it means to be a member of York University. It is these experiences and interactions members that will inform my participation on the Board and guide my efforts to give a voice to *all* of York's vibrant community.

Universities should pursue higher learning, not higher earnings.



**Michael Kenny**

My name is Michael Kenny and I am a PhD student in Education. I have been extensively involved in campus life over the years and I keenly have kept myself aware of the issues that our university faces. I am interested in serving on the board because of the experience and passion I can bring in service to York University. I will be an advocate for social justice, equity and sustainability. I will work towards improving the quality of experience of all students.

I bring extensive experience to the board: I am a co-founder and Executive Director of the environmental organization Regeneration. I have served on numerous boards, including as the Co-President of Don Heights Unitarian Congregation, President of the Don Valley West NDP Riding Association, Vice-President of the Environmental Studies Association of Canada and Vice-President of Et al. Co-operative (Faculty and Graduate Restaurant and Pub). I also previously ran as a candidate for the Ontario NDP. I am a co-chair of the Affordable Housing Committee at York University, whose mission is to facilitate the creation of high-quality affordable co-op housing on York University's "Lands for Learning."

I believe universities are crucial in shaping societal ethics, and as such, universities should take the lead by divesting from fossil fuel companies and weapons manufacturers. Besides the obvious environmental, ethical, and human rights benefits, the university also stands to gain from an improved reputation and increased enrolment should it take an ethical stand. I hope that my contribution will lead towards a more vibrant, equitable and sustainable campus.



**Yael Kogan**

Over the course of my time at York University, I've grown to see what sets York apart from other universities. York is unique in that it has a diverse student body, passionate student organizations, and exceptional academic and student driven initiatives. I would be honoured to have the opportunity to give back to this school and be a strong voice for students on the Board of Governors.

As a Graduate Student Representative on the Board of Governors I would have three principal aims: to enhance campus experience by improving safety and accessibility; to provide students with more paid internships and work placements; and to ensure that students have a bigger say in where their tuition goes.

I want to fight for structural changes that will benefit the student body. As a law student, I believe I have the tools to advocate for others and ensure that all voices are heard. My leadership experiences throughout my undergraduate degree and in law school, whether representing clubs or student unions, have taught me to appreciate the power of an engaged student community and the importance of helping make the university experience more meaningful and enriching for others.

As a Student Representative, I want to ensure a more accessible, safe, and enjoyable student experience for everyone at York. I want to make your voices heard.