

Dear Bob and Bryan,

On November 24th, the graduate student educators of DADDAA, Dunlap, and CITA held our first meeting for the 2020/2021 Unit 1 bargaining session. I have attached minutes from the meeting ([here](#)) and an outline of CUPE 3902's Unit 1 bargaining platform. The graduate student educators voted to endorse the bargaining platform and request a statement of support from the leadership of our department. Some of the policies suggested in the bargaining platform are already common within the department, and we appreciate the work that has been done to support graduate student educators. We ask that the leadership acknowledge the receipt of this letter and endorse the following or a similar statement:

The chair of the [David A. Dunlap Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics/Dunlap Institute] acknowledges that Unit 1 of CUPE 3902 (Teaching Assistants, Course Instructors, and Invigilators) is beginning its bargaining process with the University of Toronto. CUPE 3902's main priorities for this round of bargaining are to improve workload standards, foster inclusion and anti-oppression at U of T, increase compensation and job security, and promote (mental) health and safety. As chair of [David A. Dunlap Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics/Dunlap Institute], I support CUPE 3902's right to bargain and support the priorities outlined in their bargaining platform.

The statements of the department leadership will be emailed to the CUPE 3902 Unit 1 bargaining team to be used during their bargaining. The graduate student educators of astronomy greatly appreciate the support that astronomy faculty have given to graduate students in the past. We believe the astronomy department can lead by example by advocating for an equitable university.

Best wishes,

Ashley Stock

On behalf of the graduate student educators of DADDAA, Dunlap, and CITA