



Unit 1 Contract Education Workers Electrical and Computer Engineering

Dear Professor Kundur;

As you likely already know, Unit 1 Contract Academic workers (namely Teaching Assistants, Course Instructors, and Invigilators) are currently bargaining for a new Collective agreement. On January 25th, the contract student educators (Teaching Assistants, Course Instructors, Invigilators) of ECE held a meeting to discuss bargaining and our CUPE work. At this meeting, 26 students voted unanimously to endorse the following letter and formally request that the chair of ECE acknowledge receipt and endorse the following statement:

The chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering 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 ECE, I support our graduate students/cupe3902's attempt to demand a fair, safe, and just workplace at the university of Toronto. Specifically, the Department pledges to 1) reject any policies of academic continuity passed by University administration, 2) not hire any contract labour to replace striking workers and 3) refuse to compel any students to perform educational labour independent of labour decisions made by the Union with financial compensation from budgetary lines that were not already dedicated to wages, or by use of threats to academic completion. By taking this stance, the Department acknowledges the importance of unionized student labour to its teaching operations and upholds their right to a good faith bargaining climate. The Department wishes its Unit 1 employees an equitable bargaining round regardless of potential labour disruptions and will contribute to fostering a supportive environment.

The graduate student educators of ECE greatly appreciate the support that ECE faculty have given to graduate students in the past. Once again, we believe the University of Toronto ECE department can lead by example by advocating for an equitable university.

Best wishes,

The Contract Student Educators of ECE