

Dear Paul,

On November 20th, Teaching Assistants, Course Instructors, and Invigilators working in English held our first department-wide meeting of the 2020/2021 Unit 1 bargaining session. More recently, the Graduate English Association met to discuss the same matters. At both meetings, members voted unanimously to endorse the following letter and formally request that the chair of English acknowledge receipt of and endorse the following statement:

The chair of English 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 the English Department, I support our graduate students/CUPE3902's demands for a fair, safe, and just workplace at the University of Toronto.

The graduate student workers of the Department of English greatly appreciate the support given them by faculty in the past, including over the last several months of heightened uncertainty. This being said, we recognize that the issues prioritized in our bargaining platform must be addressed at a higher institutional level—one whose receptiveness to the changes that we seek, even so, can be swayed by departmental leaders such as yourself. As such, an expression of your solidarity with graduate student workers would be sincerely appreciated as we work collectively for a better, more equitable university for all.

Best wishes,

The graduate student workers of the English Department  
The Graduate English Association membership

[Stewards: Carson Hammond, Emily Halliwell-MacDonald, and Zak Jones]