



German
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Stefan Soldovieri
Associate Professor of German

February 16th, 2021

Dear Graduate Student Instructors and Teaching Assistants,

Thank you for your recent letter requesting support during the negotiation of a new Collective Agreement. It was important to hear your update on the current status of the CUPE bargaining process, and I appreciated the follow-up conversations with Florian Müller and John Evjen, in which I pledged my support and committed to further discussions with colleagues inside and outside the Department. I also indicated that the Department would adhere to our previous, good-faith praxis in the context of labour negotiations. As you know, the Department did not hire replacement instructors and found a good balance between respecting the labour action and meeting our responsibilities to undergraduate students.

As you know, in my role as Chair, I am a member of the University Administration and, in this capacity, I cannot formally sign the provided CUPE statement. However, as a faculty member at the University, I have a different status and would like to express my empathy and understanding of your situation as students and valued Course Instructors and TAs in the Department. We could not achieve our educational mission without you. I have always strived to put the well-being and academic success of my graduate students at the forefront of my professional activities. In this role at the University of Toronto, I wholeheartedly express my support for your call for a fair, safe, and just workplace and wish you the very best for the current negotiations.

Best /Stefan
Associate Professor of German