

January 25, 2021

Dear Linguistics Department Faculty,

On January 15, 2021, the graduate student educators (Teaching Assistants, Course Instructors, Invigilators) of Linguistics held our first meeting for the 2020/2021 Unit 1 bargaining session. Through a subsequent online vote of CUPE 3902 Unit 1 members in Linguistics, which was open from January 17 to January 24, 96% of respondents (26/27) voted to send out this letter to request that faculty members join us in solidarity by endorsing the following statement:

The undersigned faculty of the Department of Linguistics acknowledge that Unit 1 of CUPE 3902 (Teaching Assistants, Course Instructors, and Invigilators) is bargaining 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 faculty members in the Department of Linguistics, we support our graduate students/CUPE 3902's attempt to demand a fair, safe, and just workplace at the University of Toronto.

The statement can be endorsed using this form: <https://forms.gle/VqqJppPRttDc5pbr6>

We would also welcome any individual or group statements of support from faculty, either in addition to or in lieu of the statement we prepared above, if you would prefer to express support in your own words rather than by endorsing this pre-written statement.

The graduate student educators of Linguistics greatly appreciate the support that the Linguistics faculty have given to graduate students in the past. For instance, during our 2015 strike, the faculty of the Linguistics department stood in solidarity with graduate student educators by writing a letter to the university administration supporting our demands for increased graduate funding (attached). Our hope is that faculty can once again stand with us and advocate for graduate student workers as we bargain for a more equitable university.

Best wishes,

The Graduate Student Educators of Linguistics