

Dear Department for the Study of Religion Chair, Professor Pamela Klassen, and other faculty leaders:

Currently members of CUPE 3902 Unit 1 are bargaining with the employer for a new collective agreement that governs our lives at the University of Toronto. To build solidarity between faculty and graduate student workers in the department during this process, members of the department request that the chair of the Department for the Study of Religion and other faculty leaders acknowledge receipt and endorse the following statement:

The chair of the Department for the Study of Religion, in their formal capacity as Chair, along with other faculty leaders, acknowledge that Unit 1 of CUPE 3902 (Teaching Assistants, Course Instructors, and Invigilators) is currently bargaining a new collective agreement 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 Department for the Study of Religion, I, along with my co-signatories, support our graduate students/CUPE3902's attempt to bargain for a fair, safe, and just workplace at the University of Toronto.

The graduate student educators of the Department for the Study of Religion greatly appreciate the support that departmental faculty have given to graduate student workers in the past. Once again, we believe the University of Toronto's Department for the Study of Religion can lead by example by advocating for an equitable university and supporting its graduate student workers.

Best wishes,

Graduate Student Educators of the DSR