

Organizing Committee Annual Report (2020-2021)

Sept 2020 – April 2021

Fall 2020:

In September I (Rachel Yeo) was elected as Co-Chair and we began upon the transition to online life. In this time, there was some effort made to build membership and increase involvement with the Union through a multi-day drop-in Q&A event. We also assisted the Unit 2 bargaining campaign and reached out to members who wished to volunteer for their phone bank.

Since the committee itself was still in relative infancy, we discussed our mission statement, goals, and having our information displayed on the CUPE 3906 website. Due to the limitations placed on us in this time of COVID-19, we were not able to implement all of the great organizing strategies available to us prior. However, we managed to arrange a successful training session hosted by CUPE national which would equip us with organizing strategies for when we return in-person.

We also sent out a survey about the working conditions faced by TAs and Instructors under these conditions and had a remarkably high response rate. This helped to inform us about the membership's concerns and grievances.

The organizing committee has also been working to organize a virtual conference for later in the academic year in order to build solidarity between membership and share the fruits of our labour. This would help to build connectivity but also give members the opportunity to share their work. Once the topic was decided on, we sent out a CFP in December, receiving a few submissions.

Winter 2021:

This winter, we had a re-election to replace Kyle Morrison, our Co-Chair, and Wouter Van Den Berg was elected in his place. Since then, we have worked simultaneously on a few ongoing projects.

Due to the success and high response rate of the previous survey, we recently conducted a "Fall Back-to-School" survey to gauge the sentiment of the membership on a potential return to campus in the fall of 2021, and what concerns they had about working in these conditions. We hope to release these results over the Local's various social media platforms to increase connectivity and engagement.

Regarding social media platforms, we decided to utilize this resource as a way to (a) disseminate information about what the different committees in CUPE 3906 are working on, to

create channels for their involvement in these committees (b) inform the general membership about what benefits and services are available to them to access (c) release the aforementioned survey data, so anyone can see whether or not their grievances are shared by other members, and (d) inform members about movements or issues that CUPE 3906 currently endorses. We have been working closely with the newly revived communications committee to get this running, and to streamline communications in a way that both aligns with the Local's principles and achieves these goals.

Finally, the conference that was planned initially to be prepared by the Organizing Committee, has been approved by CUPE 3906 to combine forces with the CSEU and co-host their annual congress. In planning this, we have pushed the event dates to the late summer and re-vamped the CFP set for release later this month (April 2021). The conference should be held in mid-August and will be a multi-day event. We are now working on logistics, advertising the event, creating a website, and will be looking for volunteers in the near future.