

## **International Officer's Report (April/May 2021)**

Dear CUPE 3906 Members,

I thank you for re-electing me and for all the support throughout this year. Below, I am providing an update on my work and the initiatives that I have been developing.

1. Attended the Labour May Day Committee Meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of CUPE 3906 to push for an online rally.
2. Attended an emergency executive meeting to discuss a motion on paid-sick leave.
3. Attended the AGM, the GMM and the monthly executive meeting in May.
4. Attended two meetings for the “International Graduate Student Advisory Group”, representing CUPE and advocating for international students at the School of Graduate Studies. The major ongoing topics are securing more significant scholarships to students, equally and appropriately accommodating international students returning from abroad and compensating students’ whose work has been impacted by the pandemic.
5. Started renewing the International Committee to welcome new international members for the new academic year.
6. Started working on a new International Cookbook with different ethnic recipes to foster a sense of community and raise awareness about the food insecurity issue, including the cultural dimension. This cookbook will also be used as an outreach item for the better of the union. The following work has been completed for this initiative:
  - a. Contacting all participants in the “Meet & Eat” event and requesting detailed recipes for the ethnic dishes they shared their photos in the event.
  - b. Communicating the initiative to other members who did not participate in the event, yet might be interested in sharing ethnic recipes. Many members happily participated.
  - c. Co-ordinating with different interested people to compile all recipes and develop the Cookbook.
7. Worked on the following for the International-Domestic Peer Support Program:
  - a. Holding separate meetings with the collaborating institutions from outside McMaster to discuss and complete the matching process and emailing matched students all the instructions.
  - b. Collaborating with the partners from outside McMaster to prepare materials and resources for the orientation session.
  - c. Hosting 2 orientation sessions to accommodate students living in different time zones. Both sessions were very well attended and partners from different universities attended (e.g. uOttawa, Queen’s, UofT).
  - d. Responding to participants’ emails following the orientation sessions to clarify more about the program guidelines.