VP External report – January GMM

I don’t have too many updates for this report, though some highlights are:

• I attended several meeting, including the Hamilton District Labour Council meeting.

• Me and the other delegates to November’s CUPE National Convention met to debrief and share our thoughts on the convention. While many resolutions put forward by the academic sector did not make it to the convention floor, we supported resolutions that align with our local’s values of social justice and social unionism. We were disappointed to see resolutions in support of and solidarity with the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination voted down, labeled as “controversial” by National leadership, and treated as inherently antisemitic. We discussed how there is more organizing work to be done on this issue within the broader Canadian labour movement. It is also worth noting that the constitutional amendment allowing for additional equity and diversity seats on the national leadership was voted down again. The constitution was also updated to allow for the National Code of Conduct to cover all chartered organizations and their members.

• Over the next few weeks I will be working to meet with representatives of the other locals on campus, where discussions of a safe return to campus and remote work will surely be topics of interest.