October 2021, Vice President (and Acting President) GMM Report

Dear Members,

These last few months have been extraordinarily busy. We are in constant communications with the employer in regard to the shifting policies surrounding the return to campus directive. The uncertainty and arbitrariness of some measures have resulted in numerous grievances being filed by our Local, over and above what we would expect in this time of year. Luckily, we have an extremely diligent staff who has been indispensable in providing an adequate response to our members and in fending off the frequent threats to our rights that lurk in many of management’s innovative ideas for a “brighter world”. I wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our staff for their very hard work in these difficult times.

In recognition of problems both old and new, we are launching this year campaigns to address the unpaid working hours that many TAs have continuously faced, to secure 10 permanent paid sick days for all Ontario workers, and to press the employer to provide to all of us N95 grade or similar respirators, among other initiatives. If any of these initiatives strike a chord with you, don’t hesitate to send us an email, we need your participation to bring them to their full potential. If you have a different idea that you’d like to see us working on, again don’t hesitate to get in touch with us and, in particular, to bring your ideas to one of our [committees](https://cupe3906.org/about-us/committees-working-groups/).

Concerning our communications, I have kept on handling our email communications and any problems that could arise with its mechanics around MailChimp. The weekly e-blasts have continued to count with the generous support of our staff and executive members, however we need more people participating in the Communications Committee to make it more effective. If you have ideas for our Communications, be sure to come to our meetings and share them! I’ll be happy to loop you in on our discussions, just shoot me an email. **Our next Communications Committee meeting is scheduled for January 25, 11:00 – 12:00, please come if you have the time!**

In regard to the day-to-day of the Local, besides answering hundreds of emails, I have continued to participate in different committee meetings, such as meetings from the Benefits Committee, the Grievances Committee and the Organizing Committee. I have also met with representatives from CUPE National to discuss strategies for our Local and, together with our Vice President External, we are also in conversation with other organizations on campus about coordinating strategies together. We continue to meet with the employer to present grievances and defend the rights of our members.

Outside of the local, I keep participating in the Hamilton and District Labour Council and in the Coalition of Student Employee Union, since I am a delegate for our Local in both organizations.

I would like to end my report urging you once again to get more involved with our Local. Our Union is only as strong as our participation in it, this year we will negotiate again our Collective Agreement and we will need your support if we are to keep our rights and expand them for us and for our next members. Take this opportunity to do a favour to yourself and to all the next generations of Mac workers!

In solidarity,

Fernando