



CUPE LOCAL 3906

CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES - MCMASTER ACADEMIC & RESIDENCE WORKERS

Tel: 905-525-9140 ext. 24003 **Fax:** 905-525-3837 **Email:** staff@cupe3906.org

McMaster University, Kenneth Taylor Hall B111, 1280 Main St W, Hamilton, ON, L8S 4M4

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: May 26

Time: 1:00 pm

Executive Committee

President:	Kusum Bhatta (she/her)
Vice President:	Asim Abbas (he/him)
Vice President External:	Albert Ashong (he/him)
Secretary Treasurer:	Shivam Gupta (he/him)
Recording Secretary:	Reza Farzadnia (he/him)
Lead Steward, Unit 1:	Simran (she/her)
Lead Steward, Unit 2:	Dr. Hamed Afshari (he/him)
Lead Steward, Unit 3:	Dr. Ketan Ajay (he/him)
Lead Steward, Unit 4:	Arham Ali (he/him)
Health and Safety Officer:	Mahnaz Tajik (she/her)
Benefits & Advocacy Officer:	Nancy Kansal (she/her)
Equity Officer:	Yuly Wu (she/her)
International Officer:	Pema Sherpa (he/him)
Undergraduate Officer :	Nabil Rajput (he/him)

Committee & Working Group Chairs

PAC Chair:	Asim Abbas
Contract Action Committee:	Rand Clayton and Caleb Smolenaars
Women and Gender Rights Committee:	Kusum Bhatta
Indigenous Solidarity:	Emily Howse-Hackl and Ayra Thomas
Communications Committee:	Caleb Smolenaars
Prisoners Solidarity:	Sonia Hill and Patricia Mills
Palestine Solidarity:	Naila Bounefissa
OUWCC:	Kyle Morrison

Trustees

exp. Fall 2026 audit: Camden Church

exp. Fall 2027 audit: Kyle Morrison

exp. Fall 2028 audit: Maxwell Altman

Staff

Staff Representative: Brad Walchuk (he/him)



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Staff Representative: Mary Ellen Campbell (she/her)
Administrator Coordinator: Francesca Brugnano (she/her)

Minutes

1. Roll Call of Officers

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:04 pm after members were waiting to reach quorum. The newly elected executive officers and staff introduced themselves.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Land Acknowledgement was read by members.

3. Reading of the Equity Statement

The Equity Statement was read by members.

4. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. The agenda included permission for committee/working-group chairs who were not members to attend, and an invitation for Hamilton mayoral candidate Scarlett Gillespie for a brief self introduction. Brad noted two late New Business items: the HDLC dinner table and the Prisoners Solidarity Working Group budget increase. Nancy moved to approve the agenda; Simran seconded. Motion carried.

Scarlett Gillespie was admitted to the meeting and briefly introduced herself and her campaign. No endorsement motion was made or considered.

5. Reading & Approval of Previous Minutes

Hamed moved to approve the previous minutes. Simran seconded. Motion carried.

6. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

No matters arising were raised.

7. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Shivam presented the March and April 2026 financial report, noting that there was no April GMM due to the executive transition. Reported figures included a March opening and closing balance, and the April closing balance.

The largest cheque reported. A GMM donation was also noted. Shivam reported that the local remains financially stable and that larger May transactions will be reported at the June GMM.

Unit 3 postdoc steward cheques had been posted. Unit 1 and Unit 2 steward cheques were expected by the end of the week. Members with pending reimbursements were asked to follow up with Shivam in the second week of June if needed.

8. Trustee Report

Kyle was not present. Brad reported that a trustee audit/review of the local's finances for the previous 12 months is expected in late June or early July, with a trustee report to follow.

9. Communications and Bills



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No separate communications and bills item was presented.

10. Executive Committee Report

Kusum noted that April and May Executive Committee reports were posted on the GMM website. Executive office hours are ongoing, and members were encouraged to contact executive members or staff with questions.

11. Reports of Committees and Delegates - if applicable

a. Stewards Network

Unit 1: Simran reported that Unit 1 steward cheques were expected by the end of the week and shared a poll for a Unit 1 Steward Council meeting.

Unit 2: Hamed reported that two Unit 2 stewards had been hired and that recruitment continues.

Unit 3: Ketan reported that a Unit 3 steward meeting was being scheduled.

Unit 4: Arham reported work toward establishing a Unit 4 steward structure.

b. Labour-Management Committee (LMC)

Kusum reported that LMC would meet with McMaster management the next day (on May 27) and encouraged members to bring department or workplace concerns to the executive or staff.

c. PAC

Asim reported that PAC had met, created an official Instagram page, and planned to elect a vacant co-chair at its next meeting.

d. Bylaws Committee

Brad reported that CUPE National had approved previously submitted bylaw changes regarding the OUWCC representative process. The updated bylaws will be posted on the website.

e. Equity Action Committee (EAC)

Yuly reported that the next EAC meeting was scheduled for Friday at 1:00 pm and that a Pride Month event was being planned.

f. International Committee

Pema reported that a scheduling poll had been sent for the International Committee meeting.

g. Other committees and delegates

No additional updates were provided.

12. Nomination, Elections, or Installations

No nominations, elections, or installations were held.

13. Unfinished (Old) Business

No unfinished or old business was raised.

14. New Business

a. Motion to spend up to \$1,500 on CUPE 3906 badge reels for Fall 2026



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Brad explained the proposal to order approximately 500 CUPE 3906 badge reels from a unionized supplier for fall orientations and member use.

Dee moved the motion. Nancy seconded. Motion carried.

b. Motion to increase the Prisoners Solidarity Working Group budget by \$2,500

Sonia Hill presented the request for summer programming, including \$1,500 for a resource mail-out project, \$700 for a teach-in, and \$300 for jail and court support.

Dee moved the motion. Pema seconded. Motion carried.

c. Motion regarding Hamilton and District Labour Council (HDLC) dinner table

Kusum explained that the local has historically supported the HDLC annual event by purchasing a table, which provides 10 seats for members while supporting labour and community activists.

Shivam moved the motion. Ketan seconded. Motion carried.

d. Motion to allocate \$15,000 for Fall 2026 orientation merchandise

Shivam moved to allocate \$15,000 for fall orientation merchandise. Arham seconded. Members discussed ordering from unionized suppliers and collecting member preferences for items. Motion carried with no opposition or abstentions recorded.

After the vote, Dee raised that quorum appeared to have been lost. Brad advised that the motion already completed stood, but that no further motions could be considered once quorum had been called as lost.

15. Other Business

Albert raised the possibility of obtaining a CUPE 3906 cell phone and phone line. Because quorum had been lost, no motion could be made. The item will be brought forward under New Business at the next GMM.

16. Good of the Union

Kusum reminded members that seats were available at the HDLC dinner table. She also noted that benefits documents are being prepared and that monthly newsletters are being updated. No further items were raised.

17. Adjournment

Shivam moved to adjourn. Yuly seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:25 pm.