

EXECUTIVE REPORT

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

CUPE 3902 Strike

The CUPE 3902 strike has continued for over three weeks, with thousands of TAs, course instructors, lab instructors and other academic workers on strike. The position of the Executive Committee has been that the University must work to end the strike as soon as possible by negotiating a fair agreement with Unit 1 of CUPE 3902. Throughout the strike, the UTSU has endeavoured to provide regular updates to students, as well as providing assistance to students with questions about particular courses. We have worked with the Arts and Science Students' Union, the Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students, and the Equity Studies Students' Union to hold several townhalls. CUPE 3902 has been willing to attend and provide information to students. Unfortunately, communication from the University administration has been minimal throughout this time. A previously scheduled meeting with the Provost for Thursday, March 5 was cancelled on short notice, and neither Vice-President Human Resources and Equity Angela Hildyard nor Provost Cheryl Regehr have responded to our request for a meeting.

We have been participating in a coalition called Students First, which is made up of undergraduate and graduate students who want to see the University prioritize students and our education. This group organized a successful walk-out with the support of the UTSU, which about a thousand students attended, in protest of the way that the University has handled the strike and demanding compensation for labs, tutorials and courses that have been canceled. We have also supported a Change.org petition started by a University of Toronto student with similar goals.

Throughout the course of the strike, we have done interviews with all major news outlets, including the Toronto Star, the Globe and Mail, CP 24, Global News and City TV. We have worked hard to correct the perception that classes have not been canceled and that the effects of the strike have been minimal on undergraduate students, while also trying to pressure the University to return to the bargaining table. For more information, please contact President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca

Police Violence in Canada: Where do we go from here?

On March 12, President Yolen Bollo-Kamara spoke at an event hosted by the U of T Law Union to discuss police violence in the Canadian context. She was able to talk about the work I've done with the Black Lives Matter: Toronto Coalition, and about how we can begin to address anti-black racism and police brutality here in Canada. For more information, please contact President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

eXpression Against Oppression

This year's series of eXpression Against Oppression events concluded with three events this month. First, on Wednesday, March 11 was a launch event for the Taskforce on Mental Health. In attendance were representatives from various campus clubs, college and faculty student societies, as well as individual students who are passionate about mental health. This was a great opportunity to hear different perspectives on how to approach what many are calling the "mental health crisis" on campus, and brainstorm solutions. On Friday, March 13, we collaborated with over a dozen campus clubs and students' unions to host the Being Black at U of T panel discussion. Leading up to the event, many students shared their experiences of anti-black racism and exclusion at U of T using the hashtag #BlackAtUofT. The event focused on solutions from panelists as to how to address identified issues, including a lack of diversity of courses and programs, among faculty and academic staff and the University administration and experiences of subtle and overt racism in the classroom and elsewhere. eXpression Against Oppression concluded with a hugely successful keynote address by trans activist and television star Laverne Cox, held in collaboration with other students' unions in the GTA. For more information, please contact Vice-President External Grayce Slobodian at vpexternal@utsu.ca or President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

UTSU's Got TYP

On Monday, March 9, we were able to host an event at the Transitional Year Programme building, providing free food to students and an opportunity to learn more about the events, services and campaigns of the UTSU. We will be returning to TYP in the near future to produce ISIC cards for interested students. Thank you to TYP Director Anastasia Harovska for helping to facilitate this, and to Vice-President University Affairs Riley McCullough and Vice-President Campus Life ZiJian Yang for assisting with this event. For more information, please contact President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

Premier's Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Harassment

On Friday, March 6, Vice-President External Grayce Slobodian and President Yolen Bollo-Kamara attended an announcement by the Premier on Ontario's new plan to end sexual violence and harassment, with representatives from students' unions across the province. It was really heartening to hear the Premier's comprehensive plan to address this issue, and particularly to see that the plan took into account the recommendations that I and others made at the Roundtable on Sexual Assault in December. The Premier announced that the provincial government will be introducing legislation to mandate that every publicly funded postsecondary institution develop a policy on sexual assault, with meaningful consultation and input from students on their campuses. Institutions will also have to report statistics on sexual assault. The Premier credited the work of local students' unions and the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario in shaping what the provincial strategy would look like. For more information, please contact

Vice-President External Grayce Slobodian at vpexternal@utsu.ca or President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

Health and Human Rights Fair

On Sunday, March 8, Vice-President University Affairs Riley McCullough and President Yolen Bollo-Kamara attended the Global Health and Human Rights: LGBTQ Perspectives

Fair hosted by the University of Toronto International Health Program as part of their annual conference. We had the opportunity to table and talk to students about our social justice and equity-based campaigns and the End the Blood Campaign in particular. For more information, please contact Vice-President University Riley McCullough at vpua@utsu.ca or President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

Women in Leadership Cafe

On Friday, March 13, President Yolen Bollo-Kamara participated as a special guest facilitator at the Women in Leadership: Inspiring Change café hosted by the Office of Student Life. She had the opportunity to talk about her experiences as a woman and a student leader, and her ideas as to how to engage more women, and particularly those most underrepresented in leadership roles on campus. For more information, please contact President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

Decolonizing Our Minds

On Saturday, February 28, President Yolen Bollo-Kamara attended and tabled at the hugely successful annual Decolonizing Our Minds conference hosted by the Equity Studies Students' Union and sponsored by the UTSU. The theme for this year was "Life in Protest." For more information, please contact President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

Student Governor-Student Representative Meeting

On Wednesday, March 4, President Yolen Bollo-Kamara attended a meeting of student governors and elected student representatives. At this meeting, the primary focus of discussion was the recently released Student Societies Summit discussion paper. For more information, please contact President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

Lobby Week

From Monday, March 16 to Thursday, March 19, Vice-President Equity Najjiba Sardar and President Yolen Bollo-Kamara participated in the Lobby Week hosted by the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, attending meetings with MPPs and their staff. Key issues raised included OHIP for international students, funding for postsecondary education, ending sexual violence on college and university campuses. Han Dong, MPP for Trinity-Spadina and Parliamentary Assistant to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities was particularly interested in addressing issues with UHIP and exploring the idea further of

reinstating OHIP for international students, as well as looking at expanding the limited 30off grant. For more information, please contact Vice-President Equity Najiba Sardar or President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

Consent Culture: National Forum on Ending Sexual Violence

From Thursday March 19 to Friday March 20, President Yolen Bollo-Kamara, Vice-President Equity Najiba Sardar, and Celia Wandio, the student who started the U of T Students Against Sexual Violence coalition attended a forum on ending sexual violence hosted by the Canadian Federation of Students. The forum included workshops on developing sexual assault policies, incorporating training about consent into Orientation programming and other topics, in addition to a keynote by Staceyann Chin. President Yolen Bollo-Kamara provided an introduction to the forum, moderated several workshops and facilitated a discussion group as National Women's Commissioner of the Canadian Federation of Students. For more information, please contact President Yolen Bollo-Kamara at president@utsu.ca.

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT INTERNAL AND SERVICES

Final Vegan Breakfast

The final vegan breakfast takes place on Friday, March 27 in the Multi-Faith Centre, 2nd floor behind the kitchen. The address is 569 Spadina Avenue. It is the final in a series of six free breakfasts that were served in partnership between the Multi-Faith Centre, the Veg Club and UTSU. For more information, please contact Vice-President Internal and Services Cameron Wathey at vpinternal@utsu.ca.

Income Tax Clinics

The free income tax clinic program begins on Monday, March 30 and runs until May 6. All taxes are done by appointment only, which can be book at www.utsu.ca/tax. Tax clinics are held daily M-F between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. They are run using a volunteer base comprised of U of T students. For more information, please contact Vice-President Internal and Services Cameron Wathey at vpinternal@utsu.ca.

Blue Crew Appreciation Event

We are organizing a Blue Crew Appreciation Event to recognize the efforts of our volunteers and the many hours they have spent helping run our events and services. Students participating in the program will have their volunteer work recognized under the CCR. For more information, please contact Vice-President Internal and Services Cameron Wathey at vpinternal@utsu.ca.

Food Bank Fundraiser

The Food Bank fundraiser/awareness campaign took place throughout March in partnership with KPE and Hart House. The Food Bank is operational year round on Fridays, between 12:00-3:00 in the Multi-Faith Centre, 569 Spadina Avenue. Tcard ID is required. For more information, please contact Vice-President Internal and Services Cameron Wathey at vpinternal@utsu.ca.

Health and Dental Plan Opt-Outs

Opt-out refund cheques for the 2014/2015 benefit year have been issued and will be mailed out in March and April 2015. For any refund cheques not received by April 15, 2015, please e-mail health@utsu.ca with your name and student number using your @mail.utoronto.ca e-mail address. For more information, please contact Vice-President Internal and Services Cameron Wathey at vpinternal@utsu.ca

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

Professional Faculties Committee Meeting

On February 23, a Professional Faculties Committee Meeting was held. Members discussed specific mental health concerns within the professional faculties, and student society fees within professional faculties, among other things. For more information, contact Vice-President University Affairs Riley McCullough at vpua@utsu.ca.

Academic and Students Rights Commission Meeting

On February 25, an Academic and Students Rights Commission Meeting was held, at which members discussed strategies to advocate for a drop credit policy, the international student rights campaign, mental health, fall reading week, the Student Commons, and weed out courses. For more information, contact Vice-President University Affairs Riley McCullough at vpua@utsu.ca.

Board Member Accountability

Weekly updates continue to be sent out to members of the Board, informing them of any upcoming events or updates on campaigns. For more information, contact Vice-President University Affairs Riley McCullough at vpua@utsu.ca.

CUPE 3902 Strike

There has been a lot of organizing surrounding the strike. Members of the Executive Committee as well as some Board members, have been attending meetings for a group of students called Students First. These meetings take place three times a week and focus on how students can support each other throughout the strike. On March 6, the UTSU hosted a solidarity picket for CUPE 3902. Approximately 1000 students showed support for CUPE 3902 at the event, which turned into a massive rally. On March 18, the UTSU assisted Students First in holding a university-wide walkout calling for a tuition fee refund, with

approximately 1000 students attending this event as well. In addition to organizing, members of the Executive Committee have also been responding to numerous media requests regarding the strike. For more information, contact Vice-President University Affairs Riley McCullough at vpua@utsu.ca.

Ecofest

Ecofest went wonderfully over the course of March. In total, there were 37 events promoted through Ecofest. UTSU helped host several of these events, most notably Bikechain's 10th Anniversary Gala at the Centre for Social Innovation, and a book talk on *The First Green Wave*, with author Ryan O'Connor. For more information, contact Vice-President University Affairs, Riley McCullough, at vpua@utsu.ca.

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT EXTERNAL

Drop Fees

The Drop Fees coalition is currently doing outreach around campus with new materials that have been created. The coalition is also developing strategies to get the administration to jointly lobby the provincial government for more funding. Coalition meetings are held Thursday evenings at 6pm. For more information, please contact Vice-President External Grayce Slobodian at vpexternal@utsu.ca.

Outreach

For the past several months, the UTSU has been providing free hot chocolate to students on Thursdays, while providing information about current UTSU events, campaigns and services. Hot Chocolate Thursdays concluded in the first week of March, and we are exploring new opportunities to reach out to students as the weather warms up. For more information, please contact Vice-President External Grayce Slobodian at vpexternal@utsu.ca.

UNIMKT

We have been working closely with UNIMKT to create a safe alternative way for students to sell and buy used furniture in the UofT community all on one website. The launch of this collaboration will be in the next couple of weeks. For more information, contact Vice-President External Grayce Slobodian at vpexternal@utsu.ca

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT CAMPUS LIFE

Clubs Starter Guide

We are currently developing a comprehensive guide for all new clubs on all the resources they can access, how to do it, and all the different points of contact they may need. This guide will assist clubs in navigating different organizations such as the Office of Student Life, Academic and Campus Events and the UTSU.

The guide will include information pertinent to successfully starting a club on campus, and will feature a frequently asked questions section. For more information, please contact Vice-President Campus Life Zijian Yang at vpcampuslife@utsu.ca.

Campus Life Commission

As all its events have occurred, the Campus Life Commission also had its last meeting in March, recognizing all the student participants for the work and hours they've put in. All active members of the Campus Life Commission also received Co-Curricular Record recognition. For more information, please contact Vice-President Campus Life Zijian Yang at vpcampuslife@utsu.ca

Clubs Policy Review

With all funding processed, except for the few tabled ones, we are currently in the process of reviewing and possibly changing the current clubs policy. We would like to explore options to create a more efficient, logical, and practical method for improving clubs funding process time and encouraging club participation in events and other initiatives of the Union. For more information, please contact Vice-President Campus Life Zijian Yang at vpcampuslife@utsu.ca.