

PICKET LINE BULLETIN

16 march, 2015

VOL.1 NO.3

Week at a Glance

Monday:

"Social Workers Unite!" Rally for CUPE 3902 & 3903
(OISE, 252 Bloor Street West - 12pm)

Picket Line Speaker Series - 2pm, OISE
David Lue: "Dissociated Consciousness[es]: The
Rising Voice of the Administrator and the Falling
Voice of the Academic in the Current Labour
Disruption at the University of Toronto"

Tuesday:

UTM Day of Action! (Buses leave at 7:30am, 9am,
10am, 1pm - Please sign up!)

Faculty of Information Walkout (12pm)

Picket Captains Meeting (GSU - 5:30pm)

Wednesday:

Undergraduate Walk Out Rally & BBQ (Simcoe Hall -
12:10pm)

Thursday:

UTSC Day of Action! (Buses leave at 7:30am, 9am,
10am, 1pm - Please sign up!)

Saturday

Solidarity Rally with UofT and York Workers (Yonge-Dundas Square - 1pm)

Undergrad Town Hall

The undergrad-grad solidarity collective, Students First!, had its third organizing meeting on the Sidney Smith patio on Friday at noon. There was an impressive turnout, and some picketers also stopped by the meeting. After some discussion on the group's mission statement, the logistics of a campus-wide student walkout for this coming Wednesday, March 18 at noon, was discussed. It was decided that the students will congregate in front of Simcoe Hall after they walk out of their classrooms chanting "walkout to end the strike". The major students unions on campus (UTSU and ASSU) are both supporting this initiative, and the event is going to be widely publicized through flyer-ing, faculty outreach, and class talks. Students First! meets every MWF on the Sid Smith patio.



Photo Credit: Daniel H. Kwan

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Scientists and Engineers take over Toronto's Streets!

A well-attended and energetic Engineering and Science Picket took place Friday afternoon at King's College. Creative picket signage included: "Bridging the funding gap", "Engineers...building power," "Solubility for Ever," "Entropy Up, Funding Levels Down: Restore Funding". After converging with other picket

lines, a 300 strong contingent marched all the way down to Metro Convention Centre on Front Street to attend the Unit 1 meeting.

Lively Saturday Picket Welcomes Prospective Students

Kassandra Luciuk reports: "After a difficult day on Friday, I showed up on Saturday morning expecting office work or, at most, a tiny group of hungover picketers. Instead, we hit the streets and gave them hell out there, effectively disrupting the employer's prospective students weekend. THIS is what I'm going to continue focusing on - it's all of you who make me hit the streets and fight the good fight every day."

Unit 1 Membership Meeting

Last Friday night, 600 members met at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Members of the Strike Committee provided a brief report about our first 2 weeks of the strike. The Bargaining Team presented a proposal it believes will bring the Employer back to the bargaining table. The proposal was presented without a recommendation for membership consideration and discussion. The proposal includes:

- 1) An increase in the guaranteed minimum funding commitment to \$17,500 for all Unit 1 members as a per-member entitlement in our Collective Agreement (through the allocation of per-member bursaries available to members in the funded cohort whose minimum guaranteed funding is between \$15,000 and \$17,500);
- 2) tuition reduction per member to 50% domestic tuition owing for both domestic and international students who are members of Unit 1, who are unfunded in years 5 and 6 of the PhD or year 2 of a

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Master's, and who have fallen out of a funded cohort. For clarity, both domestic and international students would only pay \$3,557.50.

The Bargaining Team believes these gains can be met by a combination of reallocated funds in the previously rejected tentative agreement and new money produced by the Employer. Following an hour and twenty minutes of discussion and debate, a motion to endorse the proposal was passed. An amendment passed unanimously to provide for additional financial assistance for DMA students (currently outside of the funding package altogether). The meeting ended abruptly at 6:30pm.

Munk Gets Skunked Again!

Last Thursday afternoon a number of picket lines came together to march outside the Munk Centre, where a mini-conference on income inequality was being held. Conference organizers rejected our union's offer to speak at the event. In between chants, the strikers held a brief teach-in and mini-conference of their own outside the window of the conference room. The megaphone became an "open mic" and a few members (and one very passionate and supportive undergrad!) spoke about some of the broader issues underlying our strike: fighting for fair, sustainable funding for graduate students, ensuring equitable access to higher education, and preventing grad school from becoming a finishing school for children of the elite. U of T faculty continue to treat precarious labour as an abstract theoretical project, but won't engage with those of us experiencing it in reality.



Con Hall Anthropology Rally

Last Thursday, the Anthropology Department rallied outside Convocation Hall during an ANT100 lecture, which registers over 1000 undergraduate students. Twenty three strikers who TA for this course were on hand to educate their students on the need for fair funding packages and to urge those concerned with the unrest at the university to contact the Provost and request the Admin. return to the bargaining table. Among other

issues addressed was the circulating undergraduate petition demanding a tuition refund. The course TAs were joined by department administrators, alumni, and over 20 other graduate students who came out to petition undergraduates and show their support. Photo Credit: Noma Potenza

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Disruptions at "Radical Librarianship" Talk

Last Wednesday night saw a successful picket outside of a Faculty of Information guest talk on "Radical Librarianship". The picketers gathered outside Innis Hall with approximately 40 Unit 1 members present. Many unionized librarians decided not to attend the talk after hearing that the event organizers were asked the week before to move the event off-campus, but didn't. We also received some positive attention from various library organizations that were critical of the Faculty of Information and the guest speaker for expecting unionized workers to cross our picket line

Missed Connections

Let's be honest, something's been keeping us warm on the picket lines besides little blue gloves, half smouldering barrels, and a deep sense of justice. Did you have a missed connection while circling the picket line today? Not to worry. Solidarity is an email away: picketlinelove@gmail.com



\$\$Picket Pay Cheques\$\$

Strike pay cheques for the first week of the strike are ready for pick up at the strike HQ (GSU – 16 Bancroft Ave) on Monday March 16, 2015 10 am - 7 pm. For those unable to use stairs, please go the second HQ at the OPIRG office, and your cheque will be delivered to you there. If you are unable to pick up your cheque on Monday March 16, come to the CUPE 3902 Office (180 Bloor West, Suite 803) during business hours. Questions? Email: strike@cupe3902.org.

Join a Committee!

There are many sub-committees that any member can get involved with: Hype Squad, Undergrad Outreach, Faculty Outreach, Strike-breaking, Car Safety/Legal, Accessibility & Equity, Satellite Campuses, and Picket Line Bulletin. Contact: organizer@cupe3902.org and come to the Picket Captain's Meeting Tuesday!