

# **CUPE 3287 Newsletter**

*News from Nowhere*

**Year 32, Number 1**

**Editor: Jeffrey Klassen**

***CUPE*3287**

**University of Saskatchewan Sessional Lecturers**

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## President's Message

*Will Buschert*

Welcome (or welcome back) to a new term at the University of Saskatchewan. As I'm sure you are all aware, the global COVID-19 pandemic continues. While there is light at the end of the tunnel – thanks to recently approved vaccines and ongoing public health measures – nearly all of us continue to teach remotely and the University continues to be a very different place than it was this time last year. The University has [announced](#) that the current “hybrid” (i.e., mostly remote instruction) model will remain in place for the 2021 Spring and Summer session; informally, the University's Pandemic Response and Recovery Team (PRT) has indicated that at least some COVID-related restrictions are likely to remain in place well into the Fall 2021 term.

On a much cheerier note, I'm pleased to report our Local has some new faces on its Executive Board. At the 2020 AGM, **Eleni Arvanitis-Zorbas** was acclaimed to succeed **Rhonda Anderson** as Recording Secretary and **Jeffrey Klassen** was elected to succeed **Gail Osachoff** as News and Communications Officer. There are also some new faces in other roles: **Yliana Baron**

**Gavidia** has stepped forward to serve as one of Local's Trustees, **Meredith Burles** has also agreed serve on our Good and Welfare Committee, and **Patrick Bulas** has agreed to succeed **Bill Rafoss** as our representative on the U of S Occupational Committee. We should congratulate all of these individuals for their service to our Union. Regular renewal is a sign of a healthy union and I'm personally looking forward to working with each of these individuals in their new roles.

At the same time, however, allow me to express once again our deepest thanks to **Rhonda Anderson** for her many years of service to the Union, **Bill Rafoss** for his many years of active participation in the life of the Union and his seven years of service on the OHC, and, perhaps most especially, to **Gail Osachoff** for her role in founding our Local *more than thirty years ago* and for her many years of service as Newsletter Editor and News and Communications Officer.

You may be wondering why are receiving this newsletter quite so early in the term. The short answer is because we have *still more* roles to fill. As you may recall, our [interim agreement](#) [pdf, 113. Kb] with the University, ratified in October of last year, includes a commitment by both parties to commence collective bargaining geared toward a new collective agreement “within six months prior” to the expiration of our current agreement. That means that collective bargaining could begin again as soon as the end of March 2021.

Accordingly, we will be holding a special membership meeting, via Zoom, on Friday, February 12, beginning at 4:00 PM. The main item of business for the meeting will be the election of up to four members to serve on the Negotiating Committee. (Any member in good standing of CUPE

3287 is eligible to serve; Committee members receive a stipend of \$50.00 per meeting attended.)

I always encourage members to attend membership meetings – and this one is no exception. Let me especially emphasize in this case, however, that serving on the Negotiating Committee provides a very important opportunity to make your voice heard and to help to improve pay, benefits, and working conditions for all of our members. So please make a point of attending if at all possible. If you are interested in serving on the Negotiating Committee but unable to attend the meeting, you can self-nominate by providing your contact information to the Recording Secretary ([secretary.cupe3287@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.cupe3287@gmail.com)) in advance of the meeting.

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

*Jeffrey Klassen*

Dear members,

I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself as the newly elected News & Communications Officer for CUPE 3287. In addition to my involvement with the union, I have been a sessional lecturer for the Department of Linguistics since Fall 2019. I am happy to serve you all. My mandate includes the editing of this newsletter along with the creation of a new Communications Committee, which will be

formed at our members' meeting. If you are someone who is passionate about union service and would like to help with my mission to both foster communication with our membership and bolster our public image as an organization, I'd love for you to join the committee. You could simply attend the members' meeting and volunteer your own name during nominations, or you could write to me or Will Buschert if you would like to be nominated.

Best,  
Jeff

## Special Membership Meeting, Winter 2021

**Via Zoom**

*Show your solidarity with labour justice!  
Join a committee!*

(Invitation links have been distributed to the membership via email. If you have not received your invitation email, please contact [cupe3287@gmail.com](mailto:cupe3287@gmail.com))

**Friday, February 12, 2021**

Time: 4:00 PM



**SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**February 12, 2021, 4:00 PM**

**Via Zoom**

**(Meeting invitations circulated via email)**

**AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Roll Call of Officers
3. Reading of the Equality Statement
4. Adoption of Minutes, AGM, December 7, 2020
5. Matters Arising from the Minutes
6. Motion: Acceptance of new members
7. Secretary-Treasurer's Report
8. News and Communications Officer's Report
9. Executive Report
  - a. SJUMC Report
  - b. Membership Numbers
  - c. Implications of (yet another) A&S budget "crisis"
10. Election: Members of the Negotiating Committee (up to four)
11. Election: *Ad Hoc* Committee to approve AP/PD/Tuition Waiver applications
12. New Business
13. Adjournment

## Equality Statement

Union solidarity is based on the principle that union members are equal and deserve mutual respect at all levels. Any behaviour that creates conflict prevents us from working together to strengthen our union.

As unionists, mutual respect, cooperation and understanding are our goals. We should neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

Discriminatory speech or conduct which is racist, sexist, transphobic or homophobic hurts and thereby divides us. So too, does discrimination on the basis of ability, age, class, religion, language and ethnic origin.

Sometimes discrimination takes the form of harassment. Harassment means using real or perceived power to abuse, devalue or humiliate. Harassment should not be treated as a joke. The uneasiness and resentment that it creates are not feelings that help us grow as a union.

Discrimination and harassment focus on characteristics that make us different; and they reduce our capacity to work together on shared concerns such as decent wages, safe working conditions, and justice in the workplace, society and in our union.

CUPE's policies and practices must reflect our commitment to equality. Members, staff and elected officers must be mindful that all persons deserve dignity, equality and respect.

### Union Office Remains Closed

The Union office in McLean Hall, Room 35 remains closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This will likely remain the case for at least several more months. We continue to receive postal mail, however, and we continue to respond to email and voice mail communications as quickly as possible.

You can contact the Union at **(306) 966-7023** or via email at [cupe3287@gmail.com](mailto:cupe3287@gmail.com).

Information and announcements can also be found on our website: <https://3287.cupe.ca/>

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*The Communications Committee welcomes submissions to the newsletter for publication at the following address: [news.cupe3287@gmail.com](mailto:news.cupe3287@gmail.com)*