

## Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies MINUTES

Meeting of December 10th, 2021 at 8:30a.m. TEAMS Conferencing Application

Present:	Chris Buddle (Co-Chair)	Guests:	Catherine Loiselle
	Angela Campbell (Co-Chair)		Teri Phillips
	Jennifer Chen		Glenn Zabowski
	Nancy Czemmell	Regrets:	Laura Winer
	Claire Downie		
	Rebecca Fuhrer		
	Petra Rohrbach		
	Daniel Weinstock		
	Elyse Cragg (communications)		
	Gillian Nycum (SME/resource person)		
	Paola Colapelle (secretary)		

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### **Student accommodations**

The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee was joined by Teri Phillips, Director and Catherine Loiselle, Associate Director of the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) and Glenn Zabowski, Associate Dean of Students from the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOs) to speak about student accommodations.

A framework for academic considerations was created this fall to effectively process COVID-19 related accommodation requests. The **COVID-19 Academic Accommodations Request [self-reporting form]** available in Minerva is utilized by students to report the inability to attend class or assessments due to COVID-19 symptoms, self-isolation, or a positive COVID-19 test result. Minerva reports are run daily and triaged by ODOs, then forwarded to Faculties for processing.

When a Minerva **COVID-19 Academic Accommodations Request [self-reporting form]** does not fall within short-term COVID-19 related accommodations, it is forwarded to the Office of Students for Disabilities (OSD) for further analysis and consideration. Long-term COVID-19 related accommodation requests do not fall within the mandate of the OSD, but a revised framework is being developed which will make it clear that these cases will be managed, in a partnership between OSD, ODOs, and Faculties. In this way, some accommodations may be possible, and the efforts will be carefully coordinated. It is recognized that the online synchronous participation approach may be helpful in some contexts when students are in need of longer-term accommodations. The proposed framework, once finalized, will be shared with the Ad-hoc committee, and other relevant stakeholders, and it can be communicated in advance of the Winter 2022 term.

### **Communications and mandate for the W22 term**

The committee discussed different strategies to reach out to Faculties and establish focus groups to enhance effective and creative exchange of information and to address issues or concerns across campus. A mapping for a communications and outreach plan will be prepared in the days to come.

The committee determined that this would be its last regular meeting for the term. It will convene at an exceptional time in the week ahead to tie up loose ends and assess any updates on pedagogical arrangements for instructors who cohabit with dependants vulnerable to complications from COVID.