

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

Meeting of December 9th, 2021 at 9:00a.m. TEAMS Conferencing Application

Present:

Ad Hoc Advisory Committee

Chris Buddle (Co-Chair)
Angela Campbell (Co-Chair)
Jennifer Chen
Nancy Czemmell
Claire Downie
Rebecca Fuhrer
Petra Rohrbach
Daniel Weinstock
Laura Winer
Elyse Cragg (communications)
Gillian Nycum (SME/resource person)
Paola Colapelle (secretary)

Recovery and Resumption Committee

Mandana Bassiri
Diana Dutton
Fabrice Labeau (Co-Chair)
Alexandre Liepins
Susan Murley

The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee and Recovery and Resumption (ROR) Committee members were welcomed and introduced by Prof. Chris Buddle. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss activities undertaken by each committee and to allow Ad Hoc Committee members to ask questions of the ROR Committee members.

Prof. Fabrice Labeau summarized the ROR Committee's main operations. The ROR Committee was created once the epidemiological situation in Quebec stabilized. It redistributes operations and recovery within responsible units of functional groups such as Physical Safety, Academics, Student Life and Learning, Facilities, Staff and Human Resources and lastly, Communications, and was operational once the EOC was no longer required to be active regularly. The ROR Committee looks at the overall situation and ensures coordination of developed solutions. When a new pandemic-related issue is identified, it makes recommendations to the functional groups affected and ensures effective execution of necessary operations.

A question was raised on the most recent COVID-19 OMICRON variant and the possibility that it may affect the present recovery mode and restoring of normal activities. Prof. Labeau informed the Committee that the transition to a new response structure for COVID-19 was created with Terms of Engagement stating that the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) can be reactivated under certain conditions. The recovery mode would then come to an end and would be reinitialized once the epidemiological situation restabilizes.

At the moment, there is no change to operations except in regard to travel due to very recent government-imposed restrictions. The impact will mainly be on exchange students and international students, as travel arrangements will be complicated. In preparation of possible complications, contracts have been negotiated with neighboring hotels to increase the present capacity for anyone who may require an isolation period post-travel. The quarantine bursary program has been reactivated, and other measures implemented in the fall, when quarantine periods were imposed, can be reinstated if needed.

There will be a follow-up with the International Student Services to reinforce communications and message the importance of flexibility in terms of travel. Attention is being given to the possible scenario where students might not be able to return to Montreal for the start of the Winter term, and to explore accommodations for them, while not losing sight of the constraints of different programs.

In regard to what is possible for in-person meetings, the ROR Committee noted the [Framework on Meetings and Events for Fall 2021 and Winter 2022](#), describes parameters for university-sponsored activities.