

Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies
MINUTES

Meeting of February 25th, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. TEAMS Conferencing Application

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

Communications update

Christopher Buddle shared with the committee that the presence on campus remains consistent at an average of ~25,000 daily WIFI connections. The committee asked whether it is possible to obtain a breakdown analysis of data to determine the distribution of campus presence during a 24-hour period to gain a better understanding of in-class presence or lack thereof. After verifying, Prof. Buddle informed the committee that, regrettably, this level of granular information is not easily available. Requests for student accommodations (through the online form on Minerva) remain stable, ranging from approximately 10 to 25 per day.

Update on Senate Open Discussion

Senate held an Open Discussion on the ad hoc committee's work at its meeting of Wednesday, February 16th. The committee observed that final assessments were a focus of discussions and that there is an alignment between some of what was discussed in Senate and the revisions proposed to the Student Assessment Policy (SAP). The revised SAP has been in development for years and has already been presented to many stakeholders. It is at the final stages of review and will be presented to the university's governance bodies for final approval later this term. The SAP opens a learner-focused approach to assessment and has been developed in consultation with, and with strong support from, students and faculty members.

Upcoming initiatives and planning

The mandate of this Committee comes to an end after the 2022 winter term. The following items will be addressed at upcoming meetings:

- Meet with members of the Working Group on New Models of Academic Program Delivery to discuss the transition from the Winter 2022 to Fall 2022 term and beyond. The focus of such a meeting will be to consider carefully whether some of the academic planning considerations done by this ad-hoc committee may be sustained over time and contribute to overall lessons learned from the pandemic.
- Provide feedback around a possible framework that will provide support to instructors who wish to integrate blended components in their courses during the Fall 2022 term.
- Possibly find a way to hear from instructors teaching this current term through a survey or focus group, to gather information that can help prepare us for any future disruptions. More generally, the ad-hoc committee may be in a good position to provide input to EOC and the University on any contingency planning if the pandemic causes the University to modify delivery of its academic programs in the future.
- Prepare a summary package to present to Senate in May