

Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies
MINUTES

Meeting of February 4th, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. TEAMS Conferencing Application

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

Return to campus & Support for instructors and students

The committee discussed the adaptation some instructors are facing and will face in these weeks during the return to in-class teaching, notably in relation to technology use for online synchronous teaching. To reduce frustration felt by some, it was suggested to have instructors visit their classroom ahead of time, and perhaps see if a Remote Learning Assistant (RLA) could help. Calling/contacting IT if there are AV issues in a classroom is important. Chairs and Directors are asked to share the messaging to instructors about teaching support available.

As expected, there has been an increase in the number of people on campus in the last weeks. The university has also seen a decrease in the number of requests for student accommodation for short term absences. The SMUU and the Dean of Students have prepared a flowchart which illustrates the process that was established by this committee late last fall for students who have more chronic symptoms and therefore need to request a longer-term accommodation.

With solutions proposed and initiatives recommended by this committee, there was a general sense that the return to campus has been positive overall.

Senate Open Discussion

The committee had further discussions to finalize the format and questions for the open discussion to provide an opportunity for additional engagement with all Senators on topics pertaining to academic planning in the COVID context.

Open Discussion Questions

1. Given what we know so far about the Winter 2022 term at McGill, what adjustments to academic activities might be considered between now and the end of term, and should these be considered by the Ad Hoc Committee?
2. What measures put in place pursuant to the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations ought Senate recommend we continue longer-term?
3. What are Senators' views on the emerging trend we are seeing in terms of a move away from in-person, centrally-administered final examinations as a mode of student assessment?

Instructions:

- Each group will be in a separate breakout room and will have 10 minutes to discuss the assigned question.
- At the outset of the group discussion, each group should quickly appoint (a) a discussion facilitator (who monitors the discussion and ensures all members of a group who want to speak have a chance to do so; and (b) a rapporteur who takes notes on the discussion and reports back to Senate in plenary.
- When Senate reconvenes after group discussions, each group's rapporteur will report back. The rapporteur will have a maximum of 1-1/2 minutes to do so. Rapporteurs are encouraged not to lose time raising points that earlier groups have signaled.
- Following the reporting back from the rapporteurs, all Senators will be invited to take part in a broader discussion about points raised in an open discussion for 20 minutes.