

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

Meeting of January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. TEAMS Conferencing Application

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

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**Return to campus update**

Prof. Buddle informed the Committee that an update should be expected soon from the Ministry of Education and Public Health in terms of projected dates for return to all in-person teaching. The objective is to have a return to campus with normal classroom capacities as soon as the present pandemic situation will allow. The projected date will be communicated to the McGill community as soon as possible.

With the arrival of the COVID-19 Omicron variant there is no longer visibility in terms of case positives due to the removal of PCR testing to the general public and a shortage of rapid tests. The isolation period for those fully vaccinated has now been reduced from 10 days to 5 days. Since the onset of the pandemic, many operational decisions were made on positive case counts and contact tracing. Due to the present fundamental change in information, there will be some shifts in approach to the University's pandemic management.

It was also noted that there will most likely be an increase in absenteeism in the months to come due to the Omicron variant.

**Mandate and Communications**

The committee may explore methods to create opportunities for two-way modes of communication. Consultations would allow for the Academic Community to raise needs and concerns while generating listening opportunities for the Committee to present new ideas and optimal strategies. One idea is to host a session, perhaps done in partnership with Teaching and

Learning Services, specifically about ideas around teaching on Zoom (given Zoom fatigue), and on effective approaches to a teaching and learning modality switch, which is predicated for this term (i.e., from online to in-person).

The Committee will follow up with ideas before its next regular meeting in the week to follow.