



Some students have apparently complained publicly over social media that their instructor(s) were not compassionate in the face of accommodation requests. It was reiterated that if there are issues in a classroom, appropriate channels should be followed to resolve the issue. The community can be reminded of the importance of being compassionate, but with the exception of anonymous complaints online, the sense is that instructors are doing their best to be accommodating.

**Transition to next phase and conversations with the New Models of Academic Program Delivery:**

The committee spent the remainder of the meeting debriefing following the meeting with the “NewMAD” group last week. Overall it was a positive discussion and there is a recognition that we have learned many interesting ways of delivering programs over the past two years. However, it is important to reiterate that there is a difference between considering when a student requires an accommodation in contrast to a possible ‘preference’ about how they wish for their courses to be delivered. The University (and by extension instructors) must deliver our programs and courses based on program requirements and expected student learning outcomes.

A second point raised addressed the question of how to manage situations where McGill’s pandemic response may not match governmental protocols. As an example, the Province is now in a ‘self-management’ phase of the pandemic and whether or not this is appropriate for McGill was questioned – there have been varied views as to whether we ought to have been more conservative than the Province. Such questions rest with the work of the ad hoc committee and the Emergency Operations Committee (EOC). One suggestion, therefore, is for the ad-hoc committee to meet with some members of EOC in April to discuss how we consider future responses to the pandemic when it touches upon our academic program delivery and research.

The ad-hoc committee’s meeting ended with some discussion about how students may be doing poorly on in-person assessment this semester relative to those done in the past online. This may be something we want to analyze and track, and there may be ways to consider how we support students as they return to more in-person assessments in the future.