

Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies

MINUTES

Meeting of April 8, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. TEAMS Conferencing Application

Present:	Chris Buddle (Co-Chair)	Regrets : Elyse Cragg (communications)
	Angela Campbell (Co-Chair)	
	Jennifer Chen	Guests : Pierre Barbarie
	Nancy Czettel	Greg Duck
	Rebecca Fuhrer	Dr. Alexander Liepens
	Petra Rohrbach	
	Daniel Weinstock	
	Laura Winer	
	Gillian Nycum (SME/resource person)	
	Paola Colapelle (secretary)	

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and Recovery and Operations Resumption Committee (ROR)

The Ad-Hoc committee met with some members of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and Recovery and Operations Resumption (ROR) Committee to discuss future responses to the pandemic when these touch upon academic activities.

Pierre Barbarie, Associate Director – University Safety informed the committee on existing thresholds and structures used by the EOC when there is an emergency and in which instances EOC and ROR are alternately mobilized or demobilized. The EOC is one element within the Incidence Command Structure (ICS) which is composed of core members and subject matter experts (SME). Its role is to ensure consistency throughout the University when contingency plans are created. The EOC meets regularly with its core members to discuss potential scenarios and prepare in the event of an extraordinary circumstance. The aim is to ensure preparedness for both preventative and responsive scenarios.

Greg Duck, Communications Officer, explained the Communications team's role is the transition between the information received from various sites related to the pandemic and the decision-making within the EOC or ROR structures. With the onset of the pandemic, a priority was to keep the McGill Community informed of the most recent recommendations made by the Government of Quebec and ensure these are reflected in the University's website. Another of the great challenges faced, in terms of the rapid changes during the pandemic, was the timeline for developing, approving, translating, and publishing content within delays as short as one hour.

Dr. Alexander Liepens, Associate Director, Student Learning and Development explained his role which in part involved Community Engagement in relation to the pandemic's effects on the University. Two key meetings are held weekly, the first being with the Deans with the objective of providing the latest information and hearing their feedback. It is the most optimal approach to capture Faculty-level concerns as universal rules are created and may therefore impact each one differently. The Return to Campus Coordination Group weekly meeting, comprised of around 100 members from across the University (in

academic and non-academic units), seeks to hear specific requests and to find solutions for planning for the return to campus adapted to the individual needs corresponding to the group each members represents.

Next activities:

The committee discussed on its responsibility for making recommendations in its final report on how to learn to coexist with COVID-19, notably with a view to ceasing to consider as an emergency our state of planning academic life in light of ongoing realities of the virus. The committee will seek to propose solutions to integrate and engage in alternate forms of pedagogical approach and assessments that will ensure better preparedness, as continuous waves of the pandemic arise, having now become the norm.