

January Update: Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies (“Committee”)

Since last it last reported to Senate, the Committee met several times given the rapidly shifting landscape of COVID in Quebec. Various issues have been addressed, with key discussion points recorded in minutes available online at a [designated page on the Secretariat’s website](#).

For Senate’s information, the Committee shares an excerpt from a decision that the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) reached and communicated on 14 December 2021. This decision followed the Committee’s recommendation on the matter of teaching arrangements for instructors living with dependants who face COVID-related vulnerabilities. The key points of the Provost’s decision are as follows:

- While the status quo in regard to in-person teaching remains, for cases where an instructor lives with a dependant (i.e., spouse, child, parent) with a medically-documented condition that, according to INSPQ guidelines, renders them vulnerable to COVID health complications, alternate pedagogical arrangements may be explored.
- An instructor who believes they are in such circumstances and wishes to request alternate pedagogical arrangements may raise the matter with their Dean and Chair. The latter will in turn consult with the Associate Provosts who co-chair the Committee before reaching a decision.
- Each case will be decided on its own terms, and will be based on facts about the individual instructor’s circumstances and the requirements for the successful delivery of the course(s) in question.
- Where alternate pedagogical arrangements are approved pursuant to the foregoing steps, these could include measures such as reducing classroom density, adjusting classroom layout, finding different teaching spaces, or remote teaching (that is, beyond remote teaching permitted by the Senate motion of 17 November 2021).
- Requests for alternate pedagogical arrangements must be made to the relevant Chair and Dean by 20 December, with decisions to be reached no later than 7 January 2021 and announced to students in any affected course. This will ensure that students affected by arrangements made through this process can be notified well before the W22 term add/drop period.
- The foregoing will be in place for the Winter 2022 term only.

The following are the data regarding the requests made and granted pursuant to this process.

Total Requests	Yes	No	Process not applicable	Pending
17	12	1	3	1

It is foreseeable that the weeks ahead will see the Committee’s work focus on academic matters related to the return to in-person activities and on building stronger multilateral communication channels between the Committee and the McGill community. The Committee will begin a process to communicate the work that it has done to-date and gather the community’s ideas, suggestions, and experiences.