

# Memorandum

**Secretariat**

845 Sherbrooke Street West, Room 313  
Montreal, Quebec, H3A 0G4  
Tel: 514-398-3948 | Fax: 514-398-4758

**TO:** Senate

**FROM:** Ms. Edyta Rogowska, Secretary-General

**SUBJECT:** Open Discussion: Update on the Activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies

**DATE:** February 16, 2022

**DOCUMENT #:** D21-37

**ACTION REQUIRED:** ☒ INFORMATION ☐ APPROVAL/DECISION

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**ISSUE:** Proposed discussion questions in support of the Open Discussion are provided.

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**BACKGROUND  
& RATIONALE:**

**Context**

The Senate Steering Committee selected to focus the February 16, 2022, Senate Open Discussion on an update on the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Academic Planning and Policies.

**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?

**Discussion Format**

In line with our standard practice, it is proposed that we allocate 45 minutes to this discussion. Please see Appendix A for instructions.

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**PRIOR  
CONSULTATION:**

Members of the Open Discussion Working Group  
Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Academic Planning

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<b>SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS</b>	N/A
<b>IMPACT OF DECISION AND NEXT STEPS</b>	Follow-up action may result from the Open Discussion.
<b>MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL:</b>	N/A
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	Appendix A: Breakout session instructions

**Preamble:**

Senate's Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies has a mandate to *"...liaise with and advise the University's senior administration on COVID-related decisions affecting academic planning and policies, and how such decisions can be most effectively communicated and implemented"*. It has been active for many months, and its full activities are captured through minutes on its [website](#).

More specifically, the Ad Hoc committee has played a role in making important recommendations around academic planning, including the following:

- A) Offering instructors flexibility to offer up to 20% of their Winter 2022 courses online without requiring additional approvals (noting that the percentages and process related to this differed in some Faculties).
- B) A process by which alternative pedagogical arrangements may be possible for instructors living with dependants who have specific vulnerabilities to COVID-19.
- C) Ensuring COVID-19 related student accommodations processes remain in place for the Winter 2022 term, and that there exists a process for students to request accommodations if they have more chronic or long-term conditions that prevents them from coming to our campuses.
- D) Developing support for online synchronous participation, as part of the tools to support student accommodation requests.
- E) Continue to strongly encourage, but not mandate, instructors to record their course content or use online synchronous, whenever possible.

The open discussion provides 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.

Group	Question	Senators in Group
1	1	Fabrice Labeau Robert Leckey Carola Weil Derek Nystrom Shaheen Shariff Beth Ann Cummings Edith Zorychta Jeff McKenzie Samer Salameh Hossein Poorhemati
2	2	Yves Beauchamp Jim Nicell Bob Babinski Joan Bartlett Nate Qutoriano Jean Deschenes Laurie Snider Dima Peripichka Addy Parsons Hermehr Sekhon
3	3	Marc Weinstein Yolande Chan Manon Venat Francisco Ruge-Murcia Andrew Kirk Eleanor Elstein Susan Drouin Martin Robillard Darelle Agtang
4	1	Martha Crago David Eidelman Gael Eakin

		Eran Shor Suzanne Fortier David Theodore Maiya Rachel Geddes Karsten Steinhauer Mathieu Blachette Houman Behzadi Paige Collins Kerry Yang
5	2	Louis Arseneault Brenda Ravenscroft Jennifer Ronholm Narendra Subramanian Ipek Türeli Ken Kastings Julie Cumming Melanie Dirks Nellie Voudouris Risann Wright Josh Werber
6	3	Chris Manfredi Bruce Lennox Jacqueline Bede Miranda Hickman Pierre-Luc Girard-Lauriault Terry Hébert Jean-Sébastien Vallée Brigitte Vachon Debbie Eperjesi Claire Guyatt Roubina Karaminassian
7	1	Anja Geitman Josephine Nalbantoglu Lucy Lach Alissa Levine Lara Khoury Srinivasan Krishnamurthy Laura Nilson Margaret Levy Chantal Grignon Carla-Elvira Olteanu Maria Rodriguez Saenz
8	2	Mary Hunter Robin Beech

		Jim Engle-Warnick Samer Faraj Momar Ndao Jacques Hurtubise Lucy Kiester Nathalie Sroka-Fillion George Qiao Nikulas Dworek
9	3	Dilson Rassier Colleen Cook Mike Fronda Bronwen Low Saku Mantere Bettina Willie Sébastien Breau Marc Richard Catriona Moore Arshian Ahsan Kristi Kouchakji
10	n/a	Christopher Buddle (guest) Angela Campbell Laura Winer Petra Rohrbach Daniel Weinstock Rebecca Fuhrer (guest) Nancy Czemmell Jennifer Chen Claire Downie Gillian Nycum