

Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies MINUTES

Meeting of November 26, 2021 at 8:30a.m. TEAMS Conferencing Application

Present: Chris Buddle (Co-Chair)
Angela Campbell (Co-Chair)
Jennifer Chen
Claire Downie
Rebecca Fuhrer
Petra Rohrbach
Daniel Weinstock
Paola Colapelle (secretary)

Regrets: Nancy Czemmel
Laura Winer
Gillian Nycum (resource person)
Elyse Cragg (communications)

Communications update

Prof. Buddle informed the Committee that the FAQ document that has been prepared and sent to the committee will be finalized and posted on the [Ad Hoc website](#) on Monday before next week's Senate meeting. If questions come into the ad-hoc committee's resource account, the committee members agreed to the existing process, where draft responses would be sent to the committee additional comments and approval before responding to the email query. It was noted that repeated questions will be identified and considered as matters of concern and will be addressed by the Committee to create recommendations.

Online synchronous participation

Teaching and Learning Services (TLS) has published on their website information on the [Winter 2022 Classroom Participation Accommodations](#). The document provides an overview of several options that is specific to the set-up of Online synchronous participation, along with technical and pedagogical considerations for implementation. The Committee was informed that Faculties will receive a memo today about resources made available to support student accommodations, including options for online synchronous participation if instructors are interested in implementing that approach in their classroom. Funds may be used to purchase technology required or to hire remote learning assistants who will provide support to instructors who wish to set-up their classrooms. This information has also been shared with the Dean of students and Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD).

Final exams – Fall 2021 term

COVID-19 Final Exam Safety Protocols have been put in place for the December 2021 final exam period which are published in the [Exams website](#). Communications to students from the Exams office will be distributed and a note will be published in the Recovery and Operations (ROR) MRO next week.

It was noted that many students have not had the opportunity to experience an in-person Fieldhouse exam experience since the start of the pandemic. A walkthrough video may be prepared by SSMU and posted to demystify the experience and alleviate anxiety levels.

It was agreed that there are more general concerns about students struggling with their own mental health and wellbeing, a situation that has been exacerbated due to the pandemic. This may be an important item for a future meeting, and such a meeting could include a Wellness Hub representative and the Dean of Students to identify solutions and find ways to approach this issue in a proactive fashion.

Accommodations for Academic Staff

There was much discussion on the accommodations framework for instructors. The present leaves or accommodation requests framework applies to all employees and are processed by the Benefits Office within the Human Resources Department. The Members articulated the importance of having a framework which is pedagogically responsible, student-centered while being based on values that include integrity, trust, and compassion. The Committee will convene for a special meeting on Monday, November 29th to draft recommendations to be introduced at the Senate meeting of 1 December.