

Dean's Report to Faculty of Health Council

March 3, 2021

I would like to once again thank all our faculty, staff and students who have been working so diligently and creatively during the continued disruption caused by COVID. Your patience and understanding continues to be appreciated.

For those who may have missed it, please read the February 24th email from the President and Provost sent to all faculty members. The correspondence provides details on some additional supports available to help our faculty members who are trying to cope with particularly difficult situations. The announcement provides information on how faculty members can apply for funding to pay a guest lecturer in an ongoing course. The guest speakers can be from either within or outside of the University. The memo also provides options related to tenure and promotion including a possible stop out for probationary faculty and an option for all candidates to include a COVID impact statement in their T and P file. The President and Provost's announcement includes information on those who may need family and medical accommodation. Finally, I would like to remind everyone that the Faculty of Health is continuing its program enabling course directors to request additional marker/grader help – subject to our ability to find suitable individuals to fill these roles. I would also encourage all academic units to consider ways they might temporarily reduce or defer non-essential committee and other service work.

The Senate has released some guidelines to help with course planning for the fall 2021 semester. In short, my office will be circulating a set of guidelines and template which asks each academic unit to: (1) identify and prioritize courses which require an "in person" or on campus component, and for which there are no other reasonable alternatives; (2) identify courses that you wish to permanently move to an on line format in whole or in part, and what resources are required to do this; and (3) to provide an outline of how all other courses will meet the needs of students under different scenarios. Units are asked to provide their responses by the end of March, in part, to provide to make necessary adjustments to CUPE postings, and to provide the Registrar's office time to work out the logistics and timetabling details.

Finally, just a reminder that we have begun the process of sending out offers of admission to new students. Your assistance in helping to address students' questions, and to profile your programs is essential to ensure a sufficient number of top students enroll in our programs. Students greatly appreciate it when our "conversion" events have a strong faculty presence. It sends a positive signal to students about the opportunity they will have to engage with and learn from outstanding, and caring faculty members.