Message to students

Subject: Dean’s message to students about labour disruption

Dear students,

This has been a very difficult week, one where I have heard much about the effects that the CUPE 3903 labour disruption is having on you. Like most of you, this is my first experience with a disruption on campus, and it has created a lot of confusion and anxiety for all in the York community, but particularly for students.

I want you to know that my office and the Faculty of Health faculty and staff are committed to supporting students during the labour disruption, and are guided by our Senate’s principles of ensuring:

1. Academic integrity of all programs
2. Fairness to students
3. Timely information about changed requirements, schedule of activities, and follow-up procedures

I am attaching a very comprehensive set of student supports, but wanted to draw particular attention to:

A. Sources of information about student advising and wellbeing:

   Academic Advising information for Faculty of Health Students
   Student success supports from Calumet and Stong College
   York University Student Services and Support
   Student Counselling, Health and Well-being

B. Sources of information about the strike:

   Frequently Asked Questions about the Labour Dispute that addresses common questions for students, as well as other groups affected by the labour disruption. It includes information on the status of your courses, as well as on your rights and responsibilities as a student, and also identifies the services and supports available to you.
Updates on University Operations during a Labour Dispute provides the York community with updates on the status of operations during the dispute.

I am confident that the University Administration is working hard to resolve the labour dispute with CUPE 3903 as quickly as possible.

I hope that during this disruption and in the times to follow, you will be mindful of your own health and wellbeing, as well as those around you. Our Faculty leadership team is committed to providing every support we can, including working closely with School and Department Chairs and Directors, our faculty members and staff to help you to complete your academic requirements in a timely manner. We will navigate these choppy waters together.

Best regards,

David Peters

Dean, Faculty of Health
**Academic Support Information**

Students often may think about how they could do better. If you would like to improve your course performance, you are encouraged to use the many academic support programs and *free* resources in your home department/school, in the Faculty of Health, and at Calumet and Stong Colleges. These can support you in your own learning and success.

Here are some reminders about the many academic support resources, where to get information in your courses, and whom to talk to if you are struggling in a course or are wondering about what to do next. Below, please find the *free* resources available to you within your department/school, College and/or Faculty.

**In the Course:**

- **Course Outline** – Consider the Course Outline as your primary source for course information. This is what you go to first. The essentials of what you need are there. Please read the Course Outline thoroughly to identify the course requirements, course assignments and evaluations, penalties, timelines, office hours, and other resources. The Course Outline also includes information on academic honesty/integrity, accommodations, library support, health and wellbeing, and College-based Student Support Programs. Course Outlines can be accessed on eClass or by contacting the Course Director/Instructor.

- **Course Director/Instructor** – Attend the office hours that the Course Director/Instructor has set for students, or book an appointment, to help you understand course material and assignment expectations – or to get answers to your questions. Feel free to search York Atlas, York University’s phone and email directory. (Tip: contact information is in the outline!)
  - *Teaching Assistant (TA)* – During a labour disruption, many TAs who have been assigned to courses are members of CUPE 3903 will not be working as TAs. If you see in eClass that your TA is continuing to teach in your course, you may connect with your Teaching Assistant to further your understanding of course material, assignments, lab/tutorial activities, and additional support. Their contact information should also be in the Course Outline.

- **Course Representative** – If your course is supported by Course Representatives, contact them to share your thoughts on how to enhance your in-class experience and to find out how to join a study group. Your Course Representatives are your classmates who serve as liaisons between you and your Course Director/Instructor and share your questions or concerns about the class. Course Representatives also host study sessions and make weekly in-class announcements.

- For **Peer Tutoring** and **Peer-Assisted Study Sessions (P.A.S.S.)** resources specific for your courses, refer to the section below on “Calumet and Stong Colleges”.
In the Unit/Program (Department or School):

- **Unit/Program Website** – A lot of information is found on your school or department website. Go to the Faculty of Health website and find your program in the ‘Programs’ dropdown menu. Look for links to the program website or degree requirements.

- **Department/School Advisor** – Email the undergraduate department/school office for information on policies, petitions, deadlines, etc. The Undergraduate Program Assistant and the Undergraduate Program Director or Coordinator can help you with understanding prerequisites to courses, enrolment, your GPA, program policies, petitions, deadlines, etc. Reach your program by clicking here.

- **GPA Requirements (Honours):** All students need to maintain a certain GPA to continue in their program. This is really important. Check out this link to calculate your GPA. If the required GPA is not maintained, you may not be able to continue in your program, and may have to transfer to another one.

In the Faculty of Health:

- **Office of Student Academic Services (OSAS)** – Connect with an Academic Advisor in OSAS to ask questions about your degree requirements, policies on repeating a course, important dates and drop deadlines, academic rules, resources to assist you with setting and achieving your educational goals, and options for success.

- **Academic Petitions** – Have questions about withdrawing from courses past the deadline, enrolling late, pursuing a course overload, etc.? Use this resource to liaise with the Petitions Coordinator about matters relating to academic petitions.

- **Academic Resources** – Consult this resource for matters related to Degree Progress Report, GPA calculation, and General Education requirements and assessment.

- **Academic Honesty** – Look over the many resources about Academic Honesty to familiarize yourself with York University Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and to complete the Academic Integrity Tutorial and Quiz. As well, check out the brief Academic Honesty animation videos that were created to help you understand the policy, processes, penalties and your options. Students are welcome to attend the virtual York Academic Integrity workshop created by the York University Libraries, entitled “Academic Integrity: Learn to Stop Worrying About It”.
  https://yorku.libcal.com/calendar/libraryworkshops?cid=7880&t=d&d=0000-00-00&cal=7880&inc=0

- **Program Change** – Thinking about making a change? Submit an application to change your major/academic program by the posted deadline.
• **Manage My Academic Record** – Consult this resource to submit an application to change your major/academic program by the set deadline, or to access your Degree Progress Report and additional resources.

**In Calumet and Stong Colleges:**

- **Peer Tutoring** – Reach out to a Peer Tutor to help you figure out more difficult course material. Peer Tutors will not complete your assignments but will help you understand difficult concepts. They can help you to succeed. Calumet and Stong Colleges Peer Tutors are available for free one-on-one tutoring sessions for courses in GH, HLST, KINE, NURS and PSYC. Visit the link provided to view the drop-in schedule.
  - If you are taking courses in the Faculty of Science (BIOL, CHEM, MATH, PHYS, STS), consult with the Bethune College Peer Tutoring program.

- **Peer-Assisted Study Sessions (P.A.S.S)** – Attend a P.A.S.S. session offered through the Colleges to build your knowledge in your course and to acquire learning skills in a group setting.
  - If you are taking courses in the Faculty of Science (BIOL, CHEM, MATH, PHYS, STS), consult with the Bethune College PASS program.
  - If you are taking courses in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (LA&PS), consult with the LA&PS PASS program.

**University Resources:**

- **SAVY** – Consult York’s Student Virtual Assistant designed to help you with tasks related to your academic journey.
- **Writing Centre** – Consult with a writing tutor to improve on your writing skills and join a session! Get feedback and support for your assignments and papers about every aspect of the writing stage from research compilation to citation. Drop-in sessions and one-on-one appointments are available to all students.
- **Student Papers and Academic Research Kit (SPARK)** – Consult this guide on how to write successful academic papers, using proper citation skills.
- **Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele (SNACK)** – Consult with SNACK Peer Tutors to receive numeracy assistance.
- **English as a Second Language Open Language Centre (ESL OLC)** – Consult with the ESL OLC to improve your English language skills: reading, writing, speaking and writing essays.
- **Learning Skills** – Check out the many workshops to improve your learning and studying skills, time management, note-taking, reading and other skills to succeed academically.
• **Libraries** – Access the York University Libraries website to support your research and studying. Also, consult with a Librarian to enhance your academic performance (citations, referencing, searching).

• **Academic Integrity** – Consult with resources on Academic Honesty/Integrity at York University. Access workshops and recorded sessions presented during the October 2022 Academic Integrity Month.

As you can see, there are many, many ways that your program, Faculty, College and the University can support you. Please try out at least one of these resources today!

Thanks, and get back to me with your questions.

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**Non-Academic Support Information**

These are some resources for non-academic supports throughout your academic life cycle at York University. These types of support are just as important as academic supports and can help provide a balance in your university life.

There are many non-academic resources available at York U (listed below) that would allow you to engage with the York community!

**Faculty of Health Resources:**

  o **Student Health Ambassadors at York (SHAY):** This great volunteer experience will enhance your personal, professional and leadership skills while supporting exciting recruitment experiences. Connect with other students and earn reward points that lead to a letter from the Dean and gift certificates!

**Calumet and Stong Colleges Resources:**

In addition to the many academic support programs (Course Representative, Peer Tutoring, P.A.S.S.), **Calumet and Stong Colleges** offer the following resources to support students, student success, student engagement and experience, leadership development, and community building. Take a few minutes to check these out:

• **Peer Mentoring** – If you are in your first year at York University, reach out to your Peer Mentor to consult on personal matters and how to successfully transition to university. Your Peer Mentor will support your goals, answer any questions and help you succeed
at university. Your Peer Mentor sends you weekly emails, hosts multiple student-oriented events and is available for one-on-one appointments (online and in-person). If you are not in contact with your peer mentor, please email scchelp@yorku.ca.

- **Health and Wellness** – Access the Health and Wellness workshops and/or take a break in the Wellness Lounge and consult with a Peer Health Educator.
- **Leadership Exploration and Development (LEAD with us)** – Initiate your journey into leadership or strengthen your leadership skills by attending some of the many training workshops. Consider becoming a Calumet and Stong College Peer Leader by supporting the success of other students – get involved!
- **Community Engagement and Wellbeing (CEW)** – Establish or strengthen your social, academic and/or professional network by attending CEW events. These workshops will support your transition to university life and increase your engagement with the York University community.
- **Career Exploration** – It is never too early to start collecting information about possible career paths. Connect with alumni in a variety of formats to receive guidance about your career options and explore opportunities for shadowing, volunteering and/or part-time work in your field of interest.
- **Awards and Scholarships** – Apply to the many awards, bursaries and scholarships that are available to students based on their level of engagement in the community, enhancing student life and/or academic achievements. Please note that the Faculty of Health also has its own list of awards and scholarships.

**University Resources:**

- **Student Counselling, Health and Well-being (SCHW)** – Connect with a professional counsellor on all confidential matters related to general health and wellbeing, including mental health. Do you feel stressed or depressed? Do you feel unrecognized or under-appreciated? Do you have suicide ideation? Feel free to connect with a SCHW counselor for either individualized one-on-one sessions or group-based support.
- **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)** – Reach out to SAS to seek individualized academic and/or disability accommodation planning, if you qualify.

For students, there are such a wide range of activities to become involved with, and supports to access. You are encouraged to connect and be a part of the Faculty of Health and York!