

COVID-19 Pandemic Disruption: Reminders for the Fall Term 2022

Communication from the Executive Committee of Senate

At this time in late summer 2022, the *Senate Policy on the [Academic Implications of Disruptions or Cessations of University Business Due to Labour Disputes or Other Causes](#)* remains in force as the COVID pandemic has not concluded and the disruption to academic activity at the University has not been declared ended. Executive wishes to remind course instructors and students what this means as we enter the Fall term of the 2022-2023 academic year.

What does this status mean entering the Fall Term?

Faculties were advised by Senate Executive this past [June](#) to begin preparations for the delivery of academic activities for the Fall 2022 term under normal operations. The large majority of courses and their activities are being delivered in-person as planned. Although the *Disruptions Policy* remains in effect, the close-to-pre-pandemic circumstances at the University mean that there is not a need to invoke adjustments to academic regulations, deadlines and schedules for this term. The single form of accommodation that remains in place is the waiver of a requirement to submit an Attending Physician's Statement (i.e., a doctor's note) in support of students' requests for deferred standing or petitions.

Student absences due to COVID-related illness may continue in the autumn. Instructors should remember that students who do not participate in academic activities because they are unable to do so owing to the disruption are entitled to:

- immunity from penalty
- reasonable alternative access to materials covered in their absence to be made available by the instructor, and
- reasonable extensions of deadlines

Faculty members and instructors seeking further guidance with the return to campus will find helpful the various *Community Resources* available on the [Better Together](#) website.

Declaring When the Disruption is Ended

It is the responsibility of Senate Executive to declare when the disruption of academic activities has ended. The Executive Committee will consider this matter early in the Fall 2022 term, with a communication to follow thereafter.

Mario Roy
Chair of Senate
9 September 2022