

Disruption Resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic to end 25 November 2022

Communication from the Executive Committee of Senate

The Executive Committee of Senate declares that the disruption of academic activities that began on 13 March 2020 will end effective 25 November 2022.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, and its impact continues to affect members of the York community, the disruption to academic activities (as defined by the Senate *Policy on the Academic Implications of Disruptions or Cessations of University Business Due to Labour Disputes or Other Causes* (the Disruptions Policy)), has ceased. Indeed, after consultation with Associate Deans, Chairs/Directors, faculty members and other members of the community, the key indicators of the state of operations at the University currently confirm that:

- the delivery of academic activities is substantively back to normal
- physical and instructional resources are available
- forms of flexibility that are normally available for course instructors to manage student absences / illness / extenuating circumstances remain in place, and instructors and students are generally managing short-term plans to address brief absences
- attendance of students, instructors and other necessary participants is generally normal, within the context of the continuing pandemic and now a heavy flu season
- evaluations, such as examinations, practica, assignments and presentations are proceeding as expected or with mostly slight adjustments.

The impact of the pandemic on the University has been significant, with some effects continuing to require attention. The ongoing matters are primarily operational ones to preserve the safety and well-being of our community, and do not touch on issues under the purview of the *Disruptions Policy*. The continuity of our academic programs has resumed without the need of adjustments to academic regulations or sessional dates. The waiver of a requirement to submit an Attending Physician's Statement in support of students' requests for deferred standing or petitions was made available by Senate Executive from the outset of the disruption. The Committee will be recommending to Senate that the waiver be extended pending completion of a full review. A decision about the status of the waiver will be made by Senate at its meeting on 24 November 2022, and the waiver continues in place until then.

As student absences and requests for support to manage extenuating circumstances are ongoing, course instructors and supervisors are in the best situation to exercise discretion and flexibility to address students' difficulties and / or absences. As is the case normally, among the options available to instructors to apply are:

- an extension of a deadline for course work / test
- [deferred standing](#) for an assignment / final examination
- an alternate assignment or weighting of coursework for a student

Instructors can seek further guidance from unit heads and Associate Deans as necessary on options available to respond to requests for support from students.

This declaration has been issued by the Executive Committee of Senate in accordance with its responsibilities under Senate's *Policy on the Academic Implications of Disruptions or Cessations of University Business Due to Labour Disputes or Other Causes*.

Mario Roy
Chair of Senate
17 November 2022