



The Senate of York University

**Notice of Special Meeting**

to be held at 3:00 pm. on Monday, March 16, 2015  
in the Senate Chamber, N940 Ross Building.

**AGENDA**

- 1. Chair's Remarks (*R. Mykitiuk*)
- 2. Committee Reports
  - a. Executive (*G. Cominel*) ..... F

**Note:** As this is a Special Meeting, no business is conducted except for items listed on the agenda page (there is no "other business" at a special meeting).

**M. Armstrong, Secretary**



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Report to Senate  
at its Special Meeting of March 16, 2015

### FOR INFORMATION

#### 1. **Actions Taken Prior to and During the Disruption of Academic Activities**

Attached as Appendix A is a summary of actions taken by Senate Executive before and since the strike by CUPE 3903 that has resulted in a disruption of academic activities since March 3. Senate Executive's actions have been guided primarily by the **Senate Policy on Academic Implications of Disruptions or Cessations of University Business Due to Labour Disputes or Other Causes** which has these core principles:

- Academic integrity
- Fairness to students
- Timely information

The Policy also assigns specific and general responsibilities to Senate Executive during a disruption. A number of other Senate policies are relevant to the discharge of the Committee's mandate in this regard, including the Class Cancellation Policy and the Sessional Dates policy. When a disruption reaches seven days, the Chairs of Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy and Senate Appeals Committee become full voting members of Senate Executive since a long disruption may entail modifications of normal academic regulations and their advice is invaluable.

The Committee's decision-making is informed by regular reports from the Vice-President Academic & Provost, University Secretary, Registrar, and the Deans / Principal. Senate Executive members have also received correspondence from interested members of the community writing as individuals or collectively.

The Disruptions Policy requires that the Executive Committee call a meeting of Senate no later than the fourteenth day of a disruption. In the past "call" has been interpreted to mean either convene a meeting or to issue a notice. Monday, March 16 marks the second full week of the current disruption and members of the Committee felt it was important to meet on this date to inform Senators of the actions it has taken and to facilitate discussion of the academic implications of the current disruption.

Documentation is attached as Appendix A.

**Note:** Senate Executive is scheduled to meet Monday morning and is expecting to issue a communication prior to Senate.

*Roxanne Mykitiuk, Chair*

## Appendix A - Senate Executive and the Academic Disruption 2015

February 10	At its regular February meeting, the Committee reviewed Senate's Policy on the Academic Implications of Disruptions or Cessations of University Business Due to Labour Disputes or Other Causes and discussed the role it would play in the event of disruption
February 26	The Chair confirmed at the February meeting of Senate that the Executive Committee was preparing for the possibility of an academic disruption resulting from a strike by CUPE 3903.
February 27	With a strike appearing possible within days ("imminent" in the words of the Policy), the Committee held a special meeting after which it issued a "Statement on Academic Implications of Potential Disruption." This document was informed by Senate Policy, a chronology of actions taken by Senate Executive before, during and after the Disruption of 2008-2009, and the Provost's recommendations regarding academic activities in the event of a strike. The Executive Committee's February 27 communique noted that "at the outset of a disruption, if it were to occur...all academic activities, classes and examinations will be suspended at the University except for a minimal number with distinctive characteristics." The Committee also pledged to deal "quickly and sensitively with academic implications if they were to arise, and will communicate decisions that it makes widely and promptly."
March 3	<p>On the first day of the strike by CUPE 3903, the Committee issued a formal declaration that there had been a significant disruption of academic activities. As a result, and based on decisions made at the February 27 meeting, all academic activities were suspended with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• non-degree courses not involving CUPE 3903 members</li> <li>• activities already scheduled off campus, such as off-campus courses, practicums, placements or internships not involving CUPE 3903 members</li> <li>• degree credit activities offered through the Osgoode Hall Law School at its downtown Toronto site</li> <li>• graduate degree credit activities at the Schulich School of Business, including the Schulich Executive Education program and Schulich-Kellogg courses</li> </ul>
March 5	<p>At a special meeting, the Committee began to actively monitor the disruption and to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with Senate Policy. The Chair confirmed that the Registrar had communicated with counterparts at other universities to advise them of the disruption and to seek their assistance in processing late applications from York students. The University Librarian had communicated with users about access to libraries.</p> <p>The Secretary reported that collegial governance activities were largely unaffected, with some reports of postponements for reasons other than the strike. The Secretary also provided the Committee with a day-by-day projection of responsibilities.</p> <p>Members had a preliminary discussion of the timing of a Senate meeting which, pursuant to the Disruptions Policy, must be called by the fourteenth day of a disruption. Because the strike was in an early stage, a decision was deferred. The Committee also reviewed current sessional dates given the possibility that some modifications would be required in the future.</p> <p>The Provost asked that the list of exempted activities include the Master of Human Resources Management which had been inadvertently omitted from the original</p>

	<p>request. The Committee approved this addition.</p> <p>Provost Lenton provided the Committee with an assessment of the impact of the disruption and described measures that had been enacted (including the extension of bursary assistance deadlines and guidance on the scheduling of recruitment events). The Registrar reported on class and examination schedule scenarios.</p> <p>The Committee endorsed a proposal to move the final date to withdraw without receiving a grade in Winter term undergraduate courses from March 6 to the final day of classes. It was noted that Faculties should adjust petition and appeal due dates to align with this change.</p>
March 6	<p>The Committee updated its March 5 bulletin by adding the Master of Human Resources Management to the list of activities that were exempt from the suspension, and defining a “suspension” of academic activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• classes are not held -- on campus or online -- and are not moved to other locations</li> <li>• no course tests or examinations are scheduled with the exception of graduate defences (which may proceed at the request of the students)</li> <li>• no course assignments of any kind are due</li> </ul>
March 9	<p>The strike reached its seventh day, and the Committee issued a communication confirming that the disruption would exceed one week. The Disruptions Policy presumes that a disruption of this length will entail remediation for quarter and half courses, and the Committee confirmed that “some adjustments to class schedules will be necessary. There may also be modifications to normal academic regulations (it has already been announced that the last day to withdraw from courses without receiving a grade will be extended, with details to be announced).” Decisions will continue to be guided by the core principles of academic integrity and fairness to students. The communication was not distributed and posted until late in the evening until the results of voting by the three CUPE 3903 units were announced.</p>
March 10 - present	<p>Members of the Committee received correspondence from individual students and faculty members, and from groups of faculty members. These were acknowledged generally by the Chair in her remarks at Committee meetings. Correspondence from groups was distributed to the membership and filed.</p>
March 10	<p>At a special meeting, the Committee welcomed Professor Leslie Sanders (Chair of ASCP) and Professor Saridakis (Chair of Appeals) to the Committee as full voting members of Senate Executive for the duration of the disruption. The Committee continued to build on its repertoire of options and decision-making criteria by reviewing material from previous disruptions.</p> <p>The Provost submitted a memorandum on “Resumption of Classes” together with a confidential summary of current or pending resumption requests and projected start dates. Faculties and programs seeking a resumption in the near future stressed the overriding imperative of fairness to students. It was estimated that 56 courses taught by Unit 1 members with course director “tickets” would not resume. The Provost reported that many students have asked that classes resume, and fairness argued in favour of allowing them a choice. Remediation plans have been completed or are at an advanced stage for all Faculties as the Deans and Principal work with colleagues on comprehensive arrangements. Out of the discussion emerged additional criteria by which to assess remediation plans.</p>

	<p>The Committee reviewed remediation plans and approved the resumption on March 11, 2015 of all courses offered by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Lassonde School of Engineering</li> <li>- the Schulich School of Business</li> <li>- the School of Nursing</li> <li>- the School of Administrative Studies</li> <li>- the School of Human Resources Management</li> </ul> <p>The Committee's decisions were communicated immediately after the conclusion of the meeting.</p>
March 12	<p>At a special meeting the Committee received, in draft and confidential form, a document entitled "Institutional Guidelines for Faculty-Specific Remediation Frameworks." The draft guidelines were based on the principles of the Disruption Policy and included recommended changes to sessional dates, principles for remediation, and accommodations for students who are unable or unwilling to participate in academic activities because of the strike. Draft Faculty remediation plans, based on the resumption of all classes except those taught by CUPE 3903 Unit 1 course directors, were distributed for review by the Committee and some Deans in attendance spoke to their planning. It was agreed that members would review the material, relay questions to the Deans and Principal, and reconvene Monday morning.</p> <p>The Osgoode Hall Law School asked to resume courses in JD programs on Monday, March 16. The Committee approved the proposal on the understanding that CUPE 3903 work will not be replaced. This decision was relayed in a fifth bulletin issued by the Committee.</p>
March 16	<p>The Committee is scheduled to meet on this date to act on a revised institutional framework in support of a resumption of classes on Tuesday, March 17 and on other proposals related to remediation and accommodation. Decisions arising from the meeting will be communicated promptly.</p>