

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and Planning for Completion of the Academic Term Communication from the Executive Committee of Senate

16 March 2020

Measures are being taken across the country to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by minimizing the amount of close contact with others in the community and include but are not limited to quarantine and self-isolation at the individual level as well as other community based approaches (e.g. avoiding crowding, school measures and closures, workplace measures and closures, public/mass gathering cancellations).

As announced this morning by the Provost and Vice-President Academic, Lisa Philipps, the decision has been taken by the University to cancel all in-person exams during the formal winter exam period of April 7-25, 2020 in accordance with the Government of Canada community-based measures, and decisions made at other Ontario institutions to stop the community based spread of the virus and stop large gatherings.

In light of that decision, the Senate Executive Committee has made further adjustments to the course completion provisions announced on 13 March 2020¹. In addition to the University's decision at that time that courses will continue through online delivery formats for the remainder of the F/W 2019-2020 and W 2020 academic terms effective Monday, 16 March 2020, Executive authorized that:

- Course Directors are permitted to reduce the number of assignments, and to make changes to the kind and weight of assignments (including tests and examinations) provided the changes do not disadvantage students, and preserve academic integrity and, where relevant, accreditation requirements.

With all in-person final examinations cancelled, Executive has expanded this ability to revise the grading scheme of a course as set out above, so that:

- where a course director has graded assignments that amount to 70% or more of the final grade in a course, the instructor may give students the option of receiving a final grade that is based on a re-weighting of assignments already completed, provided the instructor is satisfied that the learning objectives of the course have been achieved and that fairness to students and academic integrity are preserved. Students must have the option of completing additional assignments that follow the original grading scheme in the course, understanding that this decision may require deferred evaluations which may delay course completion.

Additionally, others forms of accommodation available to students effective immediately include:

- an extension of the deadline to *Withdraw from a Course Without Receiving a Grade* and removing a "W" transcript notation for F/W'19-20 and W'20 courses to **9 May 2020**;
- an extension of the deadline for students to opt in or out of the Pass/Fail grading option is extended to the last day of the final examination period to **9 May 2020**.

As a reminder, no reduction or extension of the length of the academic term is being taken.

Alison Macpherson
Chair of Senate

¹ The defined options do not apply to the JD program; Osgoode Hall Law School will administer its own rules for allowing flexibility in evaluations.