

YUFA Special General Membership Meeting
OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION OF RETURN TO CAMPUS

Wednesday February 9, 2022

11:00am – 1:00pm (EST)

Zoom details were provided in the YUFA-M message announcing the meeting

AGENDA

1. Land Acknowledgment
2. Consent Agenda
 - a. Agenda
3. Discussion of Return to Campus

Relevant Documents:

- a. President's Lenton's Message: [Driving Positive Change 2021-22](#):

“If you find yourself in need of support this year, reach out to us. The pandemic is ongoing, and York will continue to be flexible and compassionate so that we can all prioritize the safety and wellbeing of our community.”

- b. [York Federation of Students: Unsafe at York](#)

- c. [2021-12-14 YUFA-York Memorandum of Settlement re: COVID Grievances](#)

- d. [Provost's 2012-12-03 Message re no requirement for dual mode teaching](#):

“The purpose of this communication is to assure you that where a course is scheduled for in-person delivery, as the instructor for that course, you have no obligation to make exceptions for students by delivering the course to them remotely or in dual format. While technologies make it easier for a student to catch-up on an in-person meet for which they were legitimately absent, this is clearly different than an exception for the full length of the term. Instructors are encouraged to make materials available through eClass generally so that students who miss a class for any reason don't fall behind, but there is no obligation to deliver the course in more than one mode.

- e. OCUFA messages on return to campus: [Faculty and academic librarian voices ignored as universities rush to return to in-person learning](#)
- f. [2022-02-01 YUFA-M Message on Return to Campus](#)
- g. [Provost's 2022-01-28 Message](#): Return to Campus Supports & Contingency Planning for Instructors
- h. Dean McMurtry and Provost Philipps Letter to LAPS Colleagues (Attachment 1)

4. Adjournment

FACULTY OF
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January 28, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

It has come to our attention that some individual colleagues are “polling” their students on the question of whether students would prefer their class to remain remote or to resume in-person as stated in the course calendar and following the University’s announced plan for resumption of in-person instruction. To the extent that such polling is occurring, this is of concern to us, as among other issues, it can only serve to create confusion among students and affect their planning for a return to in-person delivery. For those students who may feel at the moment they prefer to continue remotely but who enrolled in an in-person course, such polling may create false expectations. Further, in terms of group dynamics or perceived power relations between peers or between students and instructor, some students may feel pressured to indicate a preference to stay remote as the socially desirable response.

Throughout the pandemic, York University has prioritized the health and safety of the university community and has implemented and maintained multiple measures that work in tandem with one another to reduce the risk of transmission on our campuses. Our efforts enjoy the support of Toronto Public Health (TPH) and the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) and give us confidence to embark on a staggered return to in-person instruction. Regardless of the outcome of any individualized polling exercise, the commitment made to those students who have registered for in-person learning should now be met, given our ability to do so safely. The express agreement of the Dean’s Office would be needed at this point in the term, for any changes to the scheduled and assigned mode of delivery in a course.

You will by now have received a separate communication from the Provost regarding “Return to Campus Supports and Contingency Planning for Instructors.” We would encourage you to read it closely, given the many details it provides regarding plans for a safe return to in-person teaching.

Given all of the above, communications with students should now be focused on providing guidance with respect to the return to in-person teaching for any course where that is the scheduled mode of delivery.

In closing, we want to thank you sincerely for your efforts in support of our students’ education.

Sincerely,



J.J. McMurtry
Dean



Lisa Philipps
Provost & Vice-President Academic

