

Academic Information from March 16, 2020 Academic Continuity Briefing  
From Pamela Couture and Diane Hensen

This is an excerpt of information from this morning's briefing that we consider relevant to our faculty and students:

- 1) We probably don't have online final exams in a survey rather than essay format, but if we do: please avoid. The university is expecting logistical problems with the online multiple choice format.
- 2) To reduce the need for final exams, faculty may either change the weighting through a vote to make earlier assignments worth more. (See best practices for a class vote online, below).
- 3) To reduce the need for final exams, faculty may add an extra assignment during exam week but it must be due no later than the due date of the final exam. (See best practices for a class vote online, below).
- 4) The period of instruction of the class must stay the same. There should be no new material introduced after April 3.
- 5) Faculty may change assignments to credit/no credit, but may not change a full course to credit/no credit without declaring a course disruption. All disruptions must be sent to Provost Cheryl Regehr for approval.
- 6) If the whole grading scheme of a class is changed, a disruption must be declared and that decision must be approved by Provost Cheryl Regehr.
- 7) The protocol for declaring a disruption: the declaration must be sent to the TST Director and then sent from TST to the Provost. We would like to avoid this by using the "alternative weighting/assignment option."
- 8) We are putting the following statement (adapted from the UofT statement) on the website that summer courses may be online and may be in person:

*In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, summer session classes may be delivered via a method other than in-person instruction (including online platforms) for part or all of the term. A final determination of delivery mode will be made by the college offering the course by April for F summer courses, and by June 13 for S courses. Decisions regarding courses that cannot be accommodated online or that are to be cancelled will be communicated to students who have registered in those courses. Course registration for TST Summer courses opens via ACORN on Wednesday, April 1, 2020.*

- 9) Best practices for a class vote online: if an instructor wants to change the assignments or weighting of a course, the instructor posts what they want to do on quercus and produces an option to vote through the quercus quiz page (just make the quiz no credit). Post clearly what is being proposed, what changes there are to the assessment rating. Voting should have an end date of the next scheduled face-to-face class. Once voting has occurred, a simple majority of the students who have voted carries the

change. Example used: if there are 100 in the class, and 50 students vote, an agreement of 26 carries the change.

- 10) Changes in weighting should be reported to the designated person within your college and a final list submitted to the TST Curriculum committee.
- 11) **We have changed the TST Board of Trustees scholarship application deadline to April 28, 2020, 4:00 pm.**
- 12) There will be a conference call about placements with the University at 8:00 am tomorrow, and another Academic briefing. Stay tuned for an update tomorrow.