March 18, 2020

Memo to Faculty from Pam Couture, Diane Henson, Colleen Shantz

After further conversation this morning, TST is requesting that the heads of colleges distribute this message to faculty:

At this time, we are balancing compassion and flexibility, on one hand, and academic integrity, on the other.

Extensions: Faculty SHOULD NOT give blanket extensions to their students. Every student’s situation must be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The deadline for all extensions to be filed is April 9 (as April 10 is Good Friday) and the deadline for all work with extensions relating to COVID-19 accommodations (see below) to be submitted is April 17. Other requests for extensions should be considered in the normal way with the appropriate supporting documentation.

We are requesting grades for students with extensions by April 24.

We encourage schools to accept extension requests for the following reasons: additional child care responsibilities due to Ontario schools and daycares closing; international travel to return to home countries; quarantine or sickness due to COVID-19 or cold or flu symptoms documented on the ACORN self-declaration form (college registrars are being given daily reports of these); other illness documented with a doctor’s note.

Summer courses: If classes in the summer must be held online, we are leaving it to colleges to confirm that the new syllabus with the online replacements satisfies the learning outcomes of the in-person course. The college-level approval is for the course for this summer, only. We will not ask the Curriculum Committee to review these syllabi; however, a list of the courses approved at the college level for an online variation must be sent by the college to the Curriculum Committee. College registrars cannot change the mode to online; rather, these courses must be reported to Diane Henson who will make that change. If faculty decide to continue with these courses in an online format in future, the course will need to be submitted to the Curriculum Committee as per the normal process.