

***** The following is being forwarded on behalf of Dr. Brian Postl, Dean, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences and Vice Provost (Health Sciences)*****

Message from
Dr. Janice Ristock, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)



March 20, 2020

Dear Deans,

PLEASE CIRCULATELY BROADLY TO YOUR FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS AND CONTINUE TO REFER TO THE UM COVID-19 WEBSITE <http://umanitoba.ca/coronavirus>

SEEQs: I have had some questions regarding professor-course evaluations (SEEQs). I have suspended the requirement for course evaluations for the Winter 2020 term as outlined in the ROASS procedure Section 2.21. I can also confirm that we will not be requiring any on-line evaluations of instructors or courses (SEEQs).

Distance Education Courses (DE designated): I am clarifying that recognized distance education (DE designated) courses, **already scheduled** to commence in May will continue.

Other Summer Session Courses: summer courses originally scheduled to be taught in-person must be converted to alternate methods or cancelled.

Spring Convocation 2020 is cancelled.

This includes:

May. 1, 2020 Spring Convocation Ceremony – Agriculture Diploma

May 2, 2020 Graduation Pow wow – Fort Garry Campus

May. 21, 2020 Spring Convocation Ceremony – Bannatyne Campus

Jun. 4, 2020 – Jun. 9, 2020 Spring Convocation Ceremony – Fort Garry Campus

Jun. 15, 2020 Spring Convocation Ceremony – Université de Saint-Boniface

At an appropriate time in the future, we hope to fully celebrate the academic success of our students.

Thank you,

Janice

Message from

Dr. Janice Ristock, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

March 18, 2019

Dear Deans,

As you know, at a special meeting of Senate on Monday, March 16, 2020 the Senate Executive Committee was [approved to act for Senate](#) in determining academic matters which required urgent resolution. As such, at the meeting of Senate Executive on Wednesday, March 18th, the following recommendations were approved:

Registration for Summer Term

Senate Executive approved that registration for Summer Term courses (defined as courses offered May - August) will be suspended indefinitely. A revised registration date will be determined and be communicated in due course.

Summer Courses Start Date

Senate Executive approved that summer courses (broadly defined as courses that were scheduled to take place between early May and the end of August) will begin no earlier than June 1, 2020 and be completed no later than August 31, 2020. The Registrar's Office will be responsible for determining an academic schedule for this period.

Summer Courses

Senate Executive approved that no in-person instruction or assessment of any courses will take place until at least September 1, 2020. All instruction will take place by alternate methods until at least September 1, 2020.

Addition to List of Acceptable English Language Proficiency Tests

Senate Executive approved that Duo-lingo used as an acceptable test of English Language Proficiency (ELP) for the purposes of applying for admission for the Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 intakes. The minimum acceptable test score would be 115 which equates to approximately 7.0 on the IELTS test. This is made in order to increase the number and availability of acceptable tests of ELP at the UM because the pandemic situation has interfered with the ability of international students in some regions to access the currently accepted tests. Duo-Lingo is recognized globally as comparable to IELTS and TOEFL. It is available online so may be completed without accessing a formal test centre. Duo-Lingo has already been approved for use as an acceptable test of ELP by a number of other universities in Canada including Dalhousie, Queen's, McGill, Alberta, Calgary, UBC, and Simon Fraser.

Limited-Access 'Policy'

Senate Executive approved that Section 2.5. (a) of the 'Repeated Course' policy be suspended indefinitely. This section stipulates that any student who has voluntarily withdrawn from, or received a final grade in, a course is prevented from repeating the course for the immediately succeeding three consecutive terms. The suspension of this policy will not disadvantage any student who withdraws or performs more poorly than hoped under the current exceptional learning conditions.

Medical Notes Not Required

Senate Executive approved that students not be required to provide medical notes in support of absences from class activities/requirements and from evaluations including final examinations. Students will be required to self-declare through email note to an Academic Advisor in the relevant Faculty/College/School that they will be unable to meet their course obligations. This declaration will be treated as necessary and sufficient for the student to be afforded reasonable accommodation.

No In-person Final Examinations

Senate Executive approved that there be no in-person final examinations be held for any courses offered in whole or in part in the Winter 2020 term, and that all assessments be completed by alternative means. Instructors will have the latitude and responsibility to adjust assessments as they deem most suitable and appropriate (e.g., online tests, take-home tests, new assignments, adjusted weightings of completed assessments, etc.) and to communicate these changes promptly to students and unit heads. The current exam period (April 13 to 25, 2020) will be maintained to provide a dedicated period within which online examinations may be scheduled. Faculties must consult with the Registrar's Office regarding any intention to offer a scheduled online final examination.

Finally, I had provided the notification (see Academic Bulletin #1 below) of the **voluntary withdrawal date change to April 13, 2020**. In addition, I **suspended sections 2.6, 2.8, 2.9(f), and 2.12 of the Responsibilities of Academic Staff with regard to Students (ROASS) Procedure, effective immediately and for the remainder of the winter term**. This suspension is to facilitate adjustments to courses and evaluation method by faculties, colleges and schools and to allow instructors the flexibility to make changes to their courses and their assignments. Please note the details as outlined at the [special meeting of Senate on March 16, 2020](#).

Please share these decisions widely with all faculty, instructors, staff – particularly academic advisors - and students in your Faculty/College/School. This and future bulletins will be posted on the University's [COVID-19 website](#). This information will be prepared for the FAQ section of the COVID-19 website. In addition, Laurie Schnarr will be communicating these changes directly with students.

Thank you for all of you work attending to these issues and more!

Janice

Academic Bulletin #1

Message from

Dr. Janice Ristock, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

March 16, 2019 at 3:35 pm

Dear Deans,

I have accepted a recommendation from the Academic Advisory Sub-Committee of the UM Pandemic Planning Committee that the Voluntary Withdrawal date for the Winter Term be changed immediately to **April 13, 2020**.

This change is intended to allow students additional time to consider voluntarily withdrawing from courses given the changes in delivery and evaluation methods that have been and will be implemented for many courses in the coming days.

Please distribute this notification widely to all instructors, staff and students in your Faculty/College/School.

Thank you,
Janice



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