



AGENDA

- I CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2021**
- II BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - none**
- III RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH TEAM
OF THE CONTINUITY STEERING COMMITTEE**
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and Return to Teaching, December 7, 2021 – January 5, 2022** Page 2
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[December 2, 2021] RE: Revised Voluntary Withdrawal
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- V ADJOURNMENT**

Please send regrets to shannon.coyston@umanitoba.ca.




**University
of Manitoba**

Office of Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

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Date: December 3, 2021

To: Jeff Leclerc, University Secretary

From: Mark Torchia, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) and Team Lead, Academic and Research Team, Continuity Steering Committee 

Re: Revised Academic Schedule, Return to Teaching, December 7th, 2021 – January 5th, 2022.

On November 3rd, 2021, Senate approved that the Senate Executive Committee in accordance with its normal powers “to deal with contingencies that arise between meetings of Senate” is empowered to approve revisions to the Academic Schedule for the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 Terms and to approve the temporary modification or suspension of academic policies required to facilitate the completion of the Fall and Winter Terms.

On November 10th and November 17th, 2021 Senate Executive approved on behalf of Senate multiple scenarios addressing revisions to the Academic Schedule based on a return to teaching on or by (i) November 15th, (ii) November 23rd, (iii) November 30th, and (iv) December 7th, 2021, respectively. In response to the ongoing labour disruption, a fifth, sixth, and seventh scenario are being proposed to address a potential return to teaching after December 7th, 2021 and up to and including a return by January 5th, 2022.

On behalf of the Academic and Research Team, sub-committee of the Continuity Steering Committee, attached you will find three proposed revisions to the Academic Schedule based on the following scenarios:

- i. the return of striking UMFA members to teaching between December 8th, 2021 and, up to and including, December 14th, 2021 (*Scenario 5*);
- ii. the return of striking UMFA members to teaching between December 15th, 2021 and, up to and including, December 21st, 2021 (*Scenario 6*); and
- iii. the return of striking UMFA members to teaching on January 5th, 2022 (*Scenario 7*)¹.

¹ Scenario 7 includes a potential return on December 22, 2021 or December 23, 2021. The university is closed from December 24, 2021 – January 4th, 2021 for the Winter Holiday.

To maintain the integrity of our courses and programs, and to ensure requirements for accreditation, the committee continues to recommend that the number of instructional days remain at sixty-one days where at all possible, noting that this may need to be reduced to sixty days in the Winter Term to accommodate the final schedule.

For the Fall 2021 Term, in all the attached scenarios, classes for interrupted Fall Term classes continue into January 2022, and in the case of Scenarios 6 and 7, into February 2022, followed by a four-day alternate exam period.

For the Winter 2022 Term, the start and end dates of the term would be delayed in all scenarios, with key dates and deadlines adjusted accordingly. Winter Term Break would be cancelled, and the exam period truncated from eleven days to eight days. As a reminder, the start of Winter Term 2022 has already been delayed in response to COVID-19 and UM's planned return to more normal instructional activity in January; this delay already reduces the flexibility in the Winter Term academic schedule.

As a direct consequence of the changes to the Winter Term, adjustments are needed to the Summer 2022 Term academic schedule under Scenarios 6 and 7. Under Scenario 6, the start of the term is delayed and the break between term segments (May-June; July-August) reduced with no impact on the July-August segment. Under Scenario 7, the start of term is delayed by two-weeks, the break between terms reduced, and the end of term delayed, with the last day of exams scheduled for the last week of August.

Accordingly, the Academic and Research Team recommends the following motion to be considered for approval by Senate Executive:

- THAT should there be a return to teaching of striking UMFA members between December 8th, 2021 and up to, and including, December 14th, 2021, the Academic Schedule revisions as presented in Scenario 5 would be implemented.
- THAT should there be a return to teaching of striking UMFA members between December 15th, 2021 and, up to and including, December 21st, 2021, the Academic Schedule revisions as presented in Scenario 6 would be implemented.
- THAT should there be a return to teaching of striking UMA members on December 22, 2021, December 23, 2021 or January 5th, 2022, the Academic Schedule revisions as presented in Scenario 7 would be implemented.

The Academic and Research Team has recommended to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) changes to the VW deadlines for Fall Term classes interrupted by the strike; for all Fall/Winter spanned classes, and for all Winter Term classes under each of the scenarios. For all scenarios, the VW deadline would remain on December 10th, 2021 for Fall Term continuing courses, unimpacted by the strike.

February 2022 graduation deadlines continue to be monitored closely; a second deadline will be identified once normal teaching resumes to accommodate any students who may have experienced delays in completing final program requirements owing to the strike. Senate will be informed of any proposed changes to the timelines of approval of the final list of graduands once more is known.

Further, all parties recognize the impacts that these delays have on students and on student progression in programs. Careful attention is being given to spring graduation and convocation timelines and

conversations are ongoing to identify ways in which to mitigate the impact that revised schedules may have on graduation processing and admission decisions for the 2022-23 academic year.

On behalf of the Continuity Steering Committee, the Academic and Research Team continues to work closely with the Office of the Registrar and Enrolment Services to model scenarios based on the potential duration of the strike, to identify the necessary revisions to the academic schedule, and to work through issues as they arise and bring forward the necessary changes for approval as required.

Cc: Diane Hiebert-Murphy, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Todd Mondor, Deputy Provost (Academic Planning and Programs) and Chair, Continuity Steering Committee
Laurie Schnarr, Vice-Provost (Students)
Jeff Adams, Registrar and Executive Director, Enrolment Services



TO: Mark Torchia, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)

FROM: Jeff Adams, University Registrar and Executive Director, Enrolment Services

DATE: December 3, 2021

SUBJECT: Modification to 2021-22 Academic Schedule

At its meetings on November 10th and November 17th, 2022, Senate executive approved multiple scenarios to modify the Academic Schedule. As a result of the duration of the labour action it has become necessary to develop additional scenarios. The proposed modifications apply to most University of Manitoba programs; any impact to dates for programs who are on an irregular schedule will be brought forward as needed. Further modification to these dates and other dates in the academic schedule may be required depending on the duration of the strike.

Scenario 5:

The proposed changes for a scenario where striking UMFA members return to teaching between December 8th, 2021, and, up to and including, December 14th, 2021, are:

For Fall 2021 term

1. **Modification to the end of fall term classes:** The last instructional day of fall term, December 10th, 2021, remains unchanged for continuing classes. The last instructional day for fall term for interrupted classes will be January 26th, 2022. There will be no classes held during the University closure that is scheduled for December 24th, 2021, through January 4th, 2022. Classes will resume on January 5th, 2022 and will conclude on January 26th, 2022. The number of instructional days for the fall term will remain at 61 days. The number of instructional contact hours for interrupted classes will be:
 - Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 37 hours (original schedule, 37 hours)
 - Tuesday/Thursday – 36 teaching hours (original schedule, 36 hours)
 - Monday/Wednesday – 37.5 hours (original schedule, 36 hours)

2. **Creation of an alternate examination period:** The original exam period, December 11th- 23rd, 2021, will continue as is for continuing courses that are not disrupted by the strike. The dates of the alternate exam period will be January 27th – 30th, 2022. All courses interrupted by the strike will have their exams re-scheduled to occur during this alternate period.
3. **Voluntary withdrawal date:** The voluntary withdrawal date for courses unimpacted by the strike would remain as December 10th, 2021. The Provost will move the voluntary withdrawal deadline for interrupted classes to January 7th, 2022. Students will have to request voluntary withdrawals for interrupted classes through their faculty office.
4. **Final grade appeal deadline:** The final grade appeal deadline will be moved from January 25th, 2022, to February 18th, 2022, for all classes, continuing and interrupted.

For Winter 2022 term

1. **Modification to the start and end dates for winter term classes:** The first instructional day for winter term 2022 classes will be moved from January 17th, 2022, to January 31st, 2022, this also applies to winter/summer term spanning courses. The last instructional day will be moved from April 18th, 2022, to April 26th, 2022. The last instructional day for winter/summer term spanning courses will be moved from July 8th, 2022 to July 22nd, 2022. The number of instructional days for the winter term will remain at 60 days. The number of instructional contact hours for the winter term will be:
 - Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 35 hours (original schedule, 36 hours)
 - Tuesday/Thursday – 37.5 teaching hours (original schedule, 36 hours)
 - Monday/Wednesday – 36 hours (original schedule, 37.5 hours)
2. **Modifications to registration period and revision period deadlines:**
 - Regular registration period (Winter and Winter/Summer spanning classes): The end date for this period will be moved from January 17th, 2022, to January 31st, 2022.
 - Registration revision period (Winter term classes): This period will move from January 17th– 31st, 2022 to January 31st, 2022 - February 14th, 2022.
 - Registration revision period (Winter/Summer term spanning classes): This period will move from November 24th, 2021 – January 31st, 2022, to November 24th, 2021 – February 14th, 2022.
 - Last date to drop without penalty (Fall/Winter classes Part B, Winter classes, Winter/Summer spanning classes): This deadline will move from January 28th, 2022, to February 11th, 2022.
 - Last date to register (Winter and Winter/Summer spanning classes): This deadline will move from January 31st, 2022, to February 14th, 2022.

3. **Voluntary withdrawal date:** The Provost will move the voluntary withdrawal date for the winter term from March 30th, 2022, to April 7th, 2022, and from January 28th, 2022, to February 11th, 2022, for fall/winter term spanning courses.
4. **Cancellation of the winter term break:** The winter term break will be cancelled. The University is closed with no classes taking place on Monday February 21st, 2022, in observance of the Louis Riel holiday.
5. **Winter term examination period:** The examination period will move from April 21st - May 1st, 2022, to April 27th – May 4th, 2022. Each day will consist of four sessions per day and the maximum duration of each session will be two hours.

For Summer 2022 term

1. **Winter/summer term spanned courses examination period:** The examination period will move from July 9th – 12th, 2022 to July 23rd – 26th, 2022.

Notes:

- i. Depending on the exact day of return, some minor modifications to the academic schedule may still be required. The dates in this section assume a return to teaching on December 14th, 2021.

Scenario 6:

The proposed changes for a scenario where striking UMFA members return to teaching between December 15th, 2021, and, up to and including, December 21st, 2021, are:

For Fall 2021 term

1. **Modification to the end of fall term classes:** The last instructional day of fall term, December 10th, 2021, remains unchanged for continuing classes. The last instructional day for fall term for interrupted classes will be February 2nd, 2022. There will be no classes held during the University closure that is scheduled for December 24th, 2021, through January 4th, 2022. Classes will resume on January 5th, 2022, and will conclude on February 2nd, 2022. The number of instructional days for the fall term will remain at 61 days. The number of instructional contact hours for interrupted classes will be:
 - Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 37 hours (original schedule, 37 hours)
 - Tuesday/Thursday – 36 teaching hours (original schedule, 36 hours)
 - Monday/Wednesday – 37.5 hours (original schedule, 36 hours)
2. **Creation of an alternate examination period:** The original exam period, December 11th-23rd, 2021, will continue as is for continuing courses that are not disrupted by the strike. The dates of the alternate exam period will be February 3rd – 6th, 2022. All courses interrupted by the strike will have their exams re-scheduled to occur during this alternate period.

3. **Voluntary withdrawal date:** The voluntary withdrawal date for courses unimpacted by the strike would remain as December 10th, 2021. The Provost will move the voluntary withdrawal deadline for interrupted classes to January 14th, 2022. Students will have to request voluntary withdrawals for interrupted classes through their faculty office.
4. **Final grade appeal deadline:** The final grade appeal deadline will be moved from January 25th, 2022, to February 28th, 2022, for all classes, continuing and interrupted.

For Winter 2022 term

1. **Modification to the start and end dates for winter term classes:** The first instructional day for winter term 2022 classes will be moved from January 17th, 2022, to February 7th, 2022, this also applies to winter/summer term spanning courses. The last instructional day will be moved from April 18th, 2022, to May 3rd, 2022. The last instructional day for winter/summer term spanning courses will be moved from July 8th, 2022 to July 29th, 2022. The number of instructional days for the winter term will remain at 60 days. The number of instructional contact hours for the winter term will be:
 - Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 35 hours (original schedule, 36)
 - Tuesday/Thursday – 37.5 teaching hours (original schedule, 36)
 - Monday/Wednesday – 36 hours (original schedule, 37.5)
2. **Modifications to registration period and revision period deadlines:**
 - Regular registration period (Winter and Winter/Summer spanning classes): The end date for this period will be moved from January 17th, 2022, to February 7th, 2022.
 - Registration revision period (Winter term classes): This period will move from January 17th– 31st, 2022 to February 7th, 2022 - February 22nd, 2022.
 - Registration revision period (Winter/Summer term spanning classes): This period will move from November 24th, 2021 – January 31st, 2022, to November 24th, 2021 – February 22nd, 2022.
 - Last date to drop without penalty (Fall/Winter classes Part B, Winter classes, Winter/Summer spanning classes): This deadline will move from January 28th, 2022, to February 18th, 2022.
 - Last date to register (Winter and Winter/Summer spanning classes): This deadline will move from January 31st, 2022, to February 22nd, 2022.
3. **Voluntary withdrawal date:** The Provost will move the voluntary withdrawal date for the winter term from March 30th, 2022, to April 14th, 2022, and from January 28th, 2022, to February 18th, 2022, for fall/winter term spanning courses. The deadline for winter/summer spanned courses will be moved from May 12th, 2022 to May 19th, 2022.
4. **Cancellation of the winter term break:** The winter term break will be cancelled. The University is closed with no classes taking place on Monday February 21st, 2022, in observance of the Louis Riel holiday.

5. **Winter term examination period:** The examination period will move from April 21st - May 1st, 2022, to May 5th – May 12th, 2022. Each day will consist of four sessions per day and the maximum duration of each session will be two hours.

Notes:

- i. Depending on the exact day of return, some minor modifications to the academic schedule may still be required. The dates in this section assume a return to teaching on December 21st, 2021.

For Summer 2022 term

Summer term consists of four parts of term: May-June, July-August, May-August (3 credit hours), and May - August (6 credit hours). Several dates will be impacted as outlined in the tables below.

Summer term (May-June)

	Revised Schedule	Regular Schedule
Start Date	May 16, 2022	May 9, 2022
Regular Registration Period	Ends May 15, 2022	Ends May 8, 2022
Registration Revision Period	May 16-19, 2022	May 9-12, 2022
Last date to drop without penalty	May 19, 2022	May 12, 2022
Voluntary withdrawal deadline	June 14, 2022	June 7, 2022
Last day of classes	June 23, 2022	June 16, 2022
Examination dates	June 25-30, 2022	June 20-25, 2022

Summer term (July-August)

	Revised Schedule	Regular Schedule
Start Date	No change	July 4, 2022
Regular Registration Period	No change	Ends July 3, 2022
Registration Revision Period	No change	July 4-7, 2022
Last date to drop without penalty	No change	July 7, 2022
Voluntary withdrawal deadline	No change	August 2, 2022
Last day of classes	No change	August 11, 2022

Examination dates	No change	August 15-20, 2022
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Summer term (May-August 3 credits)

	Revised Schedule	Regular Schedule
Start Date	May 16, 2022	May 9, 2022
Regular Registration Period	Ends May 15, 2022	Ends May 8, 2022
Registration Revision Period	May 16-27, 2022	May 9-19, 2022
Last date to drop without penalty	May 27, 2022	May 19, 2022
Voluntary withdrawal deadline	No change	July 21, 2022
Last day of classes	No change	August 11, 2022
Examination dates	No change	August 15-20, 2022

Summer term (May-August 6 credits)

	Revised Schedule	Regular Schedule
Start Date	May 16, 2022	May 9, 2022
Regular Registration Period	Ends May 15, 2022	Ends May 8, 2022
Registration Revision Period	May 16-19, 2022	May 9-12, 2022
Last date to drop without penalty	May 19, 2022	May 12, 2022
Voluntary withdrawal deadline	No change	July 21, 2022
Last day of classes	No change	August 11, 2022
Examination dates	No change	August 15-20, 2022

Winter/summer term spanned courses

Examination period: The examination period will move from July 9th – 12th, 2022 to July 30th – August 3rd, 2022.

Note: The break between summer term sessions scheduled for June 27-29, 2022 has been cancelled.

Scenario 7:

The proposed changes for a scenario where striking UMFA members return to teaching on January 5th, 2022:

For Fall 2021 term

1. **Modification to the end of fall term classes:** The last instructional day of fall term, December 10th, 2021, remains unchanged for continuing classes. The last instructional day for fall term for interrupted classes will be February 7th, 2022. There will be no classes held during the University closure that is scheduled for December 24th, 2021, through January 4th, 2022. Classes will resume on January 5th, 2022, and will conclude on February 7th, 2022. The number of instructional days for the fall term will remain at 61 days. The number of instructional contact hours for interrupted classes will be:
 - Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 38 hours (original schedule, 37 hours)
 - Tuesday/Thursday – 34.5 teaching hours (original schedule, 36 hours)
 - Monday/Wednesday – 37.5 hours (original schedule, 36 hours)
2. **Creation of an alternate examination period:** The original exam period, December 11th- 23rd, 2021, will continue as is for continuing courses that are not disrupted by the strike. The dates of the alternate exam period will be February 8th – 11th, 2022. All courses interrupted by the strike will have their exams re-scheduled to occur during this alternate period.
3. **Voluntary withdrawal date:** The voluntary withdrawal date for courses unimpacted by the strike would remain as December 10th, 2021. The Provost will move the voluntary withdrawal deadline for interrupted classes to January 19th, 2022. Students will have to request voluntary withdrawals for interrupted classes through their faculty office.
4. **Final grade appeal deadline:** The final grade appeal deadline will be moved from January 25th, 2022, to March 7th, 2022, for all classes, continuing and interrupted.

For Winter 2022 term

1. **Modification to the start and end dates for winter term classes:** The first instructional day for winter term 2022 classes will be moved from January 17th, 2022, to February 14th, 2022, this also applies to winter/summer term spanning courses. The last instructional day will be moved from April 18th, 2022, to May 10th, 2022. The last instructional day for winter/summer term spanning courses will be moved from July 8th, 2022 to August 5th, 2022. The number of instructional days for the winter term will remain at 60 days. The number of instructional contact hours for the winter term will be:
 - Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 35 hours (original schedule, 36)
 - Tuesday/Thursday – 37.5 teaching hours (original schedule, 36)
 - Monday/Wednesday – 36 hours (original schedule, 37.5)

2. **Modifications to registration period and revision period deadlines:**

- Regular registration period (Winter and Winter/Summer spanning classes): The end date for this period will be moved from January 17th, 2022, to February 14th, 2022.
- Registration revision period (Winter term classes): This period will move from January 17th– 31st, 2022 to February 14th, - March 1st, 2022.
- Registration revision period (Winter/Summer term spanning classes): This period will move from November 24th, 2021 – January 31st, 2022, to November 24th, 2021 – March 1st, 2022.
- Last date to drop without penalty (Fall/Winter classes Part B, Winter classes, Winter/Summer spanning classes): This deadline will move from January 28th, 2022, to February 28th, 2022.
- Last date to register (Winter and Winter/Summer spanning classes): This deadline will move from January 31st, 2022, to March 1st, 2022.

3. **Voluntary withdrawal date:** The Provost will move the voluntary withdrawal date for the winter term from March 30th, 2022, to April 22nd, 2022, and from January 28th, 2022, to February 28th, 2022, for fall/winter term spanning courses. The deadline for winter/summer spanned courses will be moved from May 12th, 2022 to May 27th, 2022.

4. **Cancellation of the winter term break:** The winter term break will be cancelled. The University is closed with no classes taking place on Monday February 21st, 2022, in observance of the Louis Riel holiday.

5. **Winter term examination period:** The examination period will move from April 21st - May 1st, 2022, to May 11th – May 18th, 2022. Each day will consist of four sessions per day and the maximum duration of each session will be two hours.

Notes:

- ii. Depending on the exact day of return, some minor modifications to the academic schedule may still be required.

For Summer 2022 term

Summer term consists of four parts of term: May-June, July-August, May-August (3 credit hours), and May - August (6 credit hours). Several dates will be impacted as outlined in the tables below.

	Revised Schedule	Regular Schedule
Start Date	May 24, 2022	May 9, 2022
Regular Registration Period	Ends May 23, 2022	Ends May 8, 2022
Registration Revision Period	May 24-27, 2022	May 9-12, 2022

Last date to drop without penalty	May 27, 2022	May 12, 2022
Voluntary withdrawal deadline	June 21, 2022	June 7, 2022
Last day of classes	June 30, 2022	June 16, 2022
Examination dates	July 4-9, 2022	June 20-25, 2022

Summer term (July-August)

	Revised Schedule	Regular Schedule
Start Date	July 11, 2022	July 4, 2022
Regular Registration Period	Ends July 10, 2022	Ends July 3, 2022
Registration Revision Period	July 11-14, 2022	July 4-7, 2022
Last date to drop without penalty	July 14, 2022	July 7, 2022
Voluntary withdrawal deadline	August 9, 2022	August 2, 2022
Last day of classes	August 18, 2022	August 11, 2022
Examination dates	August 22-27, 2022	August 15-20, 2022

Summer term (May-August 3 credits)

	Revised Schedule	Regular Schedule
Start Date	May 24, 2022	May 9, 2022
Regular Registration Period	Ends May 23, 2022	Ends May 8, 2022
Registration Revision Period	May 24-June 2, 2022	May 9-19, 2022
Last date to drop without penalty	June 2, 2022	May 19, 2022
Voluntary withdrawal deadline	July 28, 2022	July 21, 2022
Last day of classes	August 18, 2022	August 11, 2022
Examination dates	August 22-27, 2022	August 15-20, 2022

Summer term (May-August 6 credits)

	Revised Schedule	Regular Schedule
Start Date	May 24, 2022	May 9, 2022
Regular Registration Period	Ends May 23, 2022	Ends May 8, 2022
Registration Revision Period	May 24-27, 2022	May 9-12, 2022
Last date to drop without penalty	May 27, 2022	May 12, 2022
Voluntary withdrawal deadline	July 28, 2022	July 21, 2022
Last day of classes	August 18, 2022	August 11, 2022
Examination dates	August 22-27, 2022	August 15-20, 2022

Note: The break between summer term sessions scheduled for June 27-29, 2022, has been cancelled.

Winter/summer term spanned courses

Examination period: The examination period will move from July 9th – 12th, 2022 to August 6th – 9th, 2022.

CC: Jeff Leclerc, University Secretary




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**University
of Manitoba**

Date: December 3, 2021

To: Jeff Leclerc, University Secretary

From: Mark Torchia, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) and Team Lead, Academic and Research Team, Continuity Steering Committee 

Re: Irregular Academic Schedule Winter 2022 Term, Faculty of Law

On November 3rd, 2021, Senate approved that the Senate Executive Committee in accordance with its normal powers “to deal with contingencies that arise between meetings of Senate” is empowered to approve revisions to the Academic Schedule for the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 Terms and to approve the temporary modification or suspension of academic policies required to facilitate the completion of the Fall and Winter Terms.

Attached is a request from the Faculty of Law to utilize an irregular schedule for the Winter 2022 Term for the following programs:

- Juris Doctor (JD);
- Master of Laws (LLM); and
- Master of Human Rights (MHR).

A revised start of the Winter 2022 term, and the resulting delay to the end of term, will impact on opportunities for both current and graduating students for summer 2022. This includes the ability for graduates to write post-university professional exams and to begin practical training (articling). Current students may also experience a decrease in experiential opportunities such as summer jobs in law firms and other law-related institutions.

The Faculty notes in its request that all law courses have continued throughout the labour action. A small number of students have chosen to not cross the picket-line and the faculty has outlined how these students will be reasonably accommodated in alignment with the motions on student accommodation approved at the November 3rd, 2021 Senate meeting.

The proposed dates of the irregular scheduled have been reviewed by the Office of the Registrar and Enrolment Services with no concerns raised.

Cc: Diane Hiebert-Murphy, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Todd Mondor, Deputy Provost (Academic Planning and Programs) and Chair, Continuity Steering Committee
Laurie Schnarr, Vice-Provost (Students)
Richard Jochelson, Dean, Faculty of Law
Jeff Adams, Registrar and Executive Director, Enrolment Services



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December 2, 2021

Attn: Mark Torchia

Chair, Academic and Research Continuity Team
Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning

RE: Intention to Utilize an Irregular Schedule in Winter 2022

Dear Dr. Torchia,

The Request

In light of a certain delay to the start of the winter 2022 term, the Faculty of Law seeks approval **to employ a schedule tailored to its unique circumstances that is broadly in alignment with the original dates that were in place prior to the strike.** I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Academic and Research Continuity Team to request approval from the University for this plan.

Context and Background

The Faculty of Law is unique among faculties at the University of Manitoba in that it has continued regular operations throughout the labour action. Every teaching UMFA member in our unit signed the notice of intention to continue work and continued teaching. All courses in the Faculty of Law taught by sessional instructors have continued. To be clear, **no courses in the Faculty of Law have been disrupted due to the strike.**

The Faculty of Law houses three degree programs: an undergraduate JD program (315 students), an MHR program (43 students), and a thesis-based LLM program (10 students). In the early days of the job action, University Senate passed a broad amnesty for students, affirming their right not to cross picket lines – real or virtual – and providing assurance that students would be reasonably accommodated. My Office keeps track of those students who have elected not to cross picket lines for the purpose of ensuring reasonable accommodation when the labour action ends. Only three students in our Faculty of 368 have declared their intention not to cross a picket line; one in each of the aforementioned degree programs. In short, **the vast majority – over 99% – of students in the Faculty of Law have continued with their studies.**

The Faculty of Law is a small professional faculty in which the largest program (the JD degree) is an accredited professional degree program (under the Federation of Canadian Law Societies) and

a pathway to entry into the legal profession. Our academic programming, including term dates, dovetail into provincial and extra-provincial post-university exams and practical training (articling) for graduating students, and extra-university experiential learning through summer jobs in law firms and other law-related institutions. The articling process in Manitoba starts in May and there is a set schedule of bar exams that align with articling work start dates, all of which take place very shortly after the end of the regular term dates. The timing is especially tight this year because, under the University's original academic schedule, the winter term starts roughly two weeks later in January. **A delayed winter 2022 term would inevitably lead to scheduling conflicts with post- and extra-university requirements and opportunities which would be beyond the Faculty's, or the University's, ability to accommodate as intended by the Senate resolution of November 3rd.** In essence, a delayed term would unfairly and unduly disadvantage law students from the University of Manitoba relative to their peers at other U15 law schools.

A delayed winter term will also have significant impacts on the local legal practice community by denying opportunities to hire workers from Manitoba into their articling positions. To be clear, this would affect over 100 students entering a continuing labour market as the first step in their career. Many of our law students also take summer jobs working with access to justice initiatives in the province, and their human power is essential to providing legal services to impoverished Manitobans. **A delayed term would have serious knock-on effects for access to justice in the Province of Manitoba.**

Feedback and Concerns

Since the first day of the labour action, law students and the Manitoba Law Students Association (JD student association) have repeatedly expressed concern to the Faculty of Law Deans' Offices about a delayed winter term. As the end of the fall term draws nearer, **concerns about a delayed winter term have continued and become more deeply felt among the law student body, leading to a general sense of unease and anxiety among students and faculty members in the Faculty of Law.**

The issue of winter term dates was discussed at Law Faculty Council on November 25th and there was broad support from faculty members and students that it would be best for the Faculty of Law to adopt a tailored schedule corresponding to the original University dates for the 2021-2022 academic year. In light of the significant negative impact of a delayed winter term on law students in particular, and the wide support among the Faculty of Law community for a tailored schedule, **adopting the revised University term schedule would undoubtedly generate significant concerns** from both our internal (faculty members, students, sessional instructors) and external stakeholders (Law Society of Manitoba, law firms, legal institutions, and articling principals).

Accommodations for Striking Students

A relatively small number of students who have declared their intention not to cross the picket lines (three in the Faculty of Law). Therefore, **the Faculty of Law will handle their accommodations in law courses on a compassionate, case by case basis while maintaining**

academic rigour. This dovetails with existing practice for non-SAS accommodations in the Faculty of Law, as described below.

In the Faculty of Law, our practice is for accommodations to be deployed through the Office of the Associate Dean (JD Program) for all courses (LAW and HMRT). To be clear, the practice is for individual professors and instructors in the Faculty of Law to refer students with accommodation requests to the Associate Dean (JD Program), who handles all such decisions. Disability-related accommodations, of course, flow through Student Accessibility Services, which informs the Office of the Associate Dean (JD Program) of the accommodations. The Associate Dean (JD Program) serves as the Faculty liaison between SAS and individual professors/instructors for such accommodations. In addition, students may make requests for accommodations based on compassionate or medical reasons directly to the Office of the Associate Dean, which determines a suitable accommodation and informs the relevant professors/instructors. In the ordinary course of the school year, the Office of the Associate Dean (JD Program) receives and administers non-SAS accommodations for roughly 50 students, which commonly include deferred test and exam dates, and extensions on papers, assignments and presentations. **Accommodations for the three striking students will flow through the Office of the Associate Dean (JD Program), and will be customized based on the student's program and individual schedule.**

In the Faculty of Law, it is not uncommon for students to have some overlap between deferred exams or extended assignments from the fall term and new courses starting in the winter term. This is due to the fact that the JD program is a cohort-based program, which only offers courses in the fall and winter terms. For this reason, our Student Advisor works with students individually to work out suitable accommodations in their case, including staggering deadlines and using breaks in the academic schedule (i.e. holiday break, reading break) to provide time for students to complete course work. Given the structure of the JD program, it is usually in students' best interest to have some overlap because the alternative is a delay of 6 or more months in their progression through the program.

JD Student on Strike

The striking JD student is a third-year student, and is striking from only two out of five of their fall term courses (the two taught by UMFA members). After the strike ends, the student will be provided with lengthened deadlines, deferred tests/exams for their two fall term UMFA-taught courses. Our Student Advisor will work out an individualized remediation plan, which is apprised of the student's winter term schedule and course commitments.

In the winter term, two out of the student's five courses are again taught by UMFA members. Our Student Advisor will work with this student to provide various options. For instance, one option would be to revise their winter term schedule (which is comprised of all elective courses) to take only courses taught by non-UMFA members. If the student wishes to keep their existing complement of courses, they will be provided with lengthened deadlines, deferred tests/exams, as appropriate, given the length of the strike, for the relevant courses. (As an aside, it is likely this student will come off strike if the strike continues into January, as continuing to strike will have

knock-on effects for their post-university training, exams, and articling work that are beyond the power of the University to remediate.)

MHR Students

We recognize that students in the MHR degree have been affected by the labour action differently, as nearly all of these students have at least one non-continuing course in a faculty other than the Faculty of Law. These students will be in an unusual situation in winter term, as some will be taking courses from instructors that have been on strike, as well as continuing courses in the Faculty of Law. However, of all students in the program, **only 18 MHR students are in the course work phase of their program**, while the others are now pursuing their practicums or theses. The MHR students doing coursework are enrolled in a mandatory HMRT course in winter term, and the first few weeks of this course will be structured as asynchronous modules to avoid scheduling conflicts with continuing fall courses. The Associate Dean (JD Program) will give amnesty to MHR students enrolled in winter term law courses from attendance and participation requirements for any period of overlap between fall and winter term courses. Similarly, assignment deadlines and presentations will be lengthened for MHR students in law courses for any period of overlap between fall and winter terms. In addition to the blanket amnesty and extensions for all students in the MHR program, these students will be able to request additional accommodations, as required, based on their individual scheduling and circumstances.

LLM Student on Strike

The LLM is a thesis-based degree program, and thus there are fewer potential course scheduling conflicts. LLM students take a required Graduate Seminar course in the Faculty of Law, and one other elective course which may be in the Faculty of Law or another Faculty. The Associate Dean (Research & Graduate Studies) will provide accommodation for the striking student for the fall term Graduate Seminar course (i.e. lengthened deadlines and accommodated assignments, allowing the student to complete the course work even after the course ends). The striking student has not yet registered in an elective course for the winter term. They will have a choice to register in a course in another Faculty, or will be provided with lengthened deadlines and amnesty for any missed participation or classes due to overlapping fall and winter terms if they choose to register in a law course.

Non-Striking Students

The vast majority of students of students in the Faculty of Law are not on strike. **On-time completion of the 2021-2022 academic year is the priority for 99% of our students.** While striking students will be reasonably accommodated, as set out above, we submit that it would be unfair and unreasonable to prevent over 300 students from continuing because three students are – at least partially – on strike and 18 would have reasonable (albeit imperfect) accommodation due to potential overlap of the fall and winter terms.

Dates in Irregular Academic Schedule

The proposed dates in the irregular academic schedule for Banner purposes are as follows:

- Start and end of term dates: [January 17 – April 18, 2022](#)
- Regular registration period: [January 16, 2022](#)
- Registration revision period: [January 17 – January 31, 2022](#)
- Last date to drop without penalty: [January 28, 2022](#)
- Last date to register/Registration revision deadline: [January 31, 2022](#)
- Voluntary withdrawal deadline: [April 8, 2022](#)
- Winter term break: [February 22–25, 2022](#)
- Examination dates: [April 21 – May 1, 2022](#)
- Final grade appeal deadline: [June 13, 2022](#)

These dates reflect the University's original academic schedule for the 2021-2022 year, with one notable exception: **the voluntary withdrawal deadline is extended from March 30 to April 8, 2022 out of sympathetic consideration for students in light of the unprecedented challenges they are facing this academic year.**

Exam Period

The Faculty of Law will be responsible for the scheduling, including space, of its examination period. This poses no difficulty as it is a continuation of the usual practice. The Faculty of Law already handles exam scheduling, room booking, and manages the software (Exam Soft) required for law school exams. **Whether or not an irregular schedule is approved, the Faculty of Law is responsible for the scheduling, including space, of its examination period.**

Room Optimization Process

The Faculty of Law will not be part of the overall University room optimization process for winter term, meaning that it would need to room its classes. This creates no challenges as it is a continuation of the usual practice. The Faculty of Law has – for many years – roomed its own classes within the Robson Hall building. **In any case the Faculty of Law will be responsible for booking rooms for its classes.**

Summary

To summarize, given the inevitable delay to the start of the winter 2022 term, the Faculty of Law seeks approval to employ a schedule tailored to its unique circumstances that is broadly in alignment with the original dates that were in place prior to the strike. This plan has wide faculty and student support in the Faculty of Law, where there is broad and deeply felt concern about following the University's revised winter term schedule given the particular disadvantage it would occasion on law students.

Thank you for considering this request compassionately, in light of the unique situation and context of the Faculty of Law, its degree programs, and its role in supplying future lawyers to the provincial labour market, and providing human power for access to justice services for impoverished Manitobans in these trying and unprecedented times.

I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Virginia Torrie, Richard Jochelson & Donn Short

Drs. Virginia Torrie, Richard Jochelson, Donn Short
Associate Dean (JD Program), Dean of Law, Associate Dean (Research & Graduate Studies)



**University
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Date: December 2, 2021

To: Jeff Adams, University Registrar and Executive Director Enrolment Services

From: Diane Hiebert-Murphy, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Re: Revised Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline, Fall 2021 Term

On November 3rd, 2021, Senate approved that section 2.6 of the Voluntary Withdrawal policy for the Fall 2021 Term be suspended and that the Provost be authorized to amend the Voluntary Withdrawal date for the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 Terms, if required and report thereon to Senate.

On November 17th, 2021, Senate Executive approved on behalf of Senate a revised academic schedule based on a return to teaching between December 1st, 2021 and up to, and including, December 7th, 2021. Associated with the revised schedule, is a proposed amendment of the voluntary withdrawal deadline for the Fall 2021 term. The VW date for continuing courses, unimpacted by the strike, will remain as December 10th, 2021. For classes interrupted by the strike, the VW date will be moved to December 21st, 2021.

As the UMFA labour action continues, please accept this memo as confirmation of my approval to amend the VW date for the Fall 2021 term for courses interrupted by the strike to December 21, 2021. I would request that your office proceed accordingly.

Thank you.

cc: Todd Mondor, Deputy Provost (Academic Planning and Programs) and Chair, Continuity Steering Committee
Mark Torchia, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) and Team Lead, Academic and Research Team, Continuity Steering Committee
Laurie Schnarr, Vice-Provost (Students)
Jeff Leclerc, University Secretary