COVID-19 Update on Fall 2021 & Winter 2022

General Faculties Council
Monday March 22, 2021
Current State of Emergency

- University remains at a **Level 3 emergency**.
- Majority of travel bans remain in place – **Federal travel quarantine requirements likely to be extended past April**.
- Alberta vaccination program suggests all adults in Alberta will be vaccinated by late Spring (international students in AB included).
- Alberta does not expect ‘herd immunity’ until late Fall (as at March 3).
- **Current provincial PSI health and other restrictions:**
  - physical distancing (2M), gathering limits (100), and masking
  - mandatory work from home directive
  - restricted use of dormitory style residences
  - visa access and travel restrictions for international students
Short-term temporary decisions to support the emergency response - President/Provost/Deans.

PEC-S/Policy Group
- Policy Decisions
- Communications
  - Deans, Associations, GFC, Board etc.

PHRT Executive Lead
- Andrew Sharman Executive Lead
- Link to policy group

Planning Oversight Committee
- Updates from working groups
- Integration of working group plans
- Confirm scenarios and assumptions
- Maintain timelines
- Prepare final plan
- 4 Deans/Vice-Deans

Long-term permanent/ongoing decisions - Regular Governance (BoG/GFC and committees)

Work Group Membership
- As established by working group lead
- Includes IT and Comms reps along with faculty and student reps as required

Academic Impact Working Group
- 11 Faculty Reps
- GFC ASC Rep
- GFC CLE Rep

Communications Working Group

Faculty and Staff Working Group

Finance and Resource Working Group

Infrastructure and Operations Working Group

Research Working Group
- 7 Faculty Reps
- University Veterinarian
COVID-19 Statistics in Canada & Alberta
As of March 21, 2021

Case counts:

Vaccinations:

Note: The total number includes publicly reported confirmed and probable cases. On First Nations reserves numbers reported to Indigenous Services Canada may be counted in the provincial and territorial total numbers.

Source: Gov't of Canada
Planning Complexities & Remaining Uncertainties

- Timelines to assess what PH and travel restrictions will remain are unclear – but GOA planning direction.
- Ability to accommodate large class sizes/student volume and physical distancing outside classrooms.
- Faculty, staff and student work loads and resource requirements – willingness to return to F2F?
- Overall complexity of the university requiring ongoing flexibility – ongoing remote delivery for some international students (and others?).
- Reduced janitorial standards (budget).
- Liability and medical insurance!
- Likely ongoing PH requirements (Fall and beyond):
  - Contact Tracing capability.
  - Outbreak response plan(s).
  - OHS Hazard Assessments (refusal to work).
  - Managing/limiting gatherings?
Fall 2021 Planning Coordination

Return to Campus 21 Committee
Andre Costopoulos & Shanthi Johnson Co-Chairs
Develops the overall return to campus plan

Provost
Steven Dew

Deputy Provost
Wendy Rodgers

Executive Lead
Andrew Sharman
Keeps PEC-S informed

PEC-S
President approves plan

Provost’s Task Force on Remote Teaching and Learning

Student Services & Experience
(N. Rodenburg)

Research Ramp-up
(A. Clark & M. Rooker)

Logistics & Safety
(J. Allen & K. Huising)

Communications
(J. Hamilton)

People
(M. Cayford)

Associations/GFC
Co-Chairs keep Associations/GFC informed
Based on information currently available we are using the following objectives to plan the Fall 2021 Schedule:

• Plan a class schedule that will maximize in-person learning.

• Preserve the ability for the schedule to convert to remote delivery if needed.

• Create as much clarity for students, staff and administrators as possible.

• Make decisions in alignment with longer term objectives for schedule optimization and efficiency development.
Assumptions as of March 15, 2021

• All Canadians, and many international students, over the age of 18 will be able to access at least one dose of the vaccine by the start of the Fall 2021 term.

• No physical distancing will be required in classrooms provided that masks are worn.

• No physical distancing required in hallways provided that masks are worn.

• We can de-densify campus by spreading out the schedule more evenly throughout the day.
Key features of our plan for Fall 2021 include:

- De-densify campus/spread out the teaching times.
- Optimize the use of space
- Have back up plans in place should public health guidance change
- Ensure that there are appropriate accommodations and adaptations available to support students that may not be able to attend in person.
Next Steps and Timeline

• Schedule will be released to students – April 26.

• Registration begins – May 10.
• Remote Proctoring of Exams
• Participation Grades
• Recording of Lectures
Discussion