

Item: Recommendation Regarding Changes To Academic Regulations For The 20-21 Academic Year:

Recommendation: The University Senate should temporarily remove the requirement for invigilated examinations.

Rationale: In switching to an on-line model of course delivery and assessment, invigilation is problematic, and there may not be an acceptable solution for all courses. Moreover, best practice recommendations in the on-line world tend to be for more frequent, lower value assessments which may not lend themselves to invigilation.

Context: Some temporary changes to academic regulations were made in the Winter term of the 2019-2020 academic year when it became clear that the University would have to quickly pivot to a virtual course delivery model. Because of the inevitable disruption in courses, and the parallel disturbance of the lives of the students as they returned home or made other arrangements, steps were taken to minimize the negative impact of the situation. Faculty were encouraged to re-weight grade schemes, course content was reduced to the essentials, and it became a policy to give students the benefit of the doubt where possible. To make such changes practical, faculty were relieved of the requirement that at least 40% of the final grade in 100- and 200-level courses be from invigilated tests and examinations (Sec. 3.10 (d) of the Academic Calendar).

Going Forward: It is recommended that Senate remove the invigilation requirement for assessment during the period in which on-line teaching is the norm. Once the University returns to face-to-face teaching, the requirement would be reinstated. This does not mean that faculty may not invigilate in online courses if they choose, assuming a practical means is available. Invigilation itself is the subject of other recommendations from the Task Force. Nor does this recommendation mean that the requirement that 40% of the grade be from written assessments need be changed. Any recommendation to adjust or remove the percentage of the final grade based on invigilated work beyond this pandemic would need to be brought forward to Senate for review and approval.