

**Minutes of a meeting of Special Meeting of Senate held on the above date at 1:30 p.m.
Remotely via Zoom Audio Conference**

Members Present

Dr. M. Benarroch,
Chair
Dr. C. Adams
Mr. A.K.M. Monsurul
Prof. A. Alessi-Severini
Prof. J. Anderson
Ms. M. Babb
Prof. M. Ballard
Prof. R. Biscontri
Prof. P. Blunden
Prof. T. Bone
Ms. M. Bremfowaa-
Mensah
Prof. A. Bunt
Ms. K. Cebula
Prof. G. Clark
Prof. S. Clark
Prof. R. Currie
Mr. Wm. Dowie
Dean N. Dyck
Prof. E. Eftekharpour
Prof. A. Farrell
Prof. M. Faubert
Prof. S. Ferris
Prof. R. Field
Prof. C. Figley
Prof. J. Frank
Dean M. Friesen
Mr. W.J. Funk
Prof. Y. Gajpal
Prof. M. Garcia-
Holguera
Ms. S. George
Prof. J.-E. Ghia
Prof. J. Ghomeshi
Prof. N. Greidanus
Dr. D. Hiebert-Murphy
Dr. D. Jayas
Prof. I. Jeffrey
Dean R. Jochelson
Dean E. Jurkowski
Mr. M. Kalkat
Ms. A. Kilgour
Ms. V. Koldingnes

Mr. A. Leslie
Prof. H. Luo
Prof. L. MacDonald
Prof. K. MacKendrick
Ms. A. McGregor
Prof. M. McKenzie
Prof. K. McManus
Acting Dean K. Main
Acting Dean D.
Mandzuk
Dean B. Mark
Ms. C. Neilson
Prof. G. Nickel
Ms. Z. Odribets
Prof. D. Oliver
Ms. S. Palani
Prof. J. Paliwal
Prof. S. Passmore
Prof. J. Peeler
Dean S. Pflugmacher
Lima
Ms. S. Phillips
Dean K. Ragoonaden
Dean L. Raman-Wilms
Prof. A. Raouf
Ms. G. Romund
Ms. L. Schnarr
Prof. K. Scott
Ms. P. Segal
Mr. M. Shaw
Ms. H. Smeltzer
Mr. G. Sobie
Prof. J. Sorensen
Prof. M. Tamtik
Prof. G. Thompson
Prof. G. Tranmer
Prof. J. van Lierop
Ms. M. Villegas
Prof. D. Walker
Prof. D. Watt
Prof. S. Webber
Dean M. Yellow Bird
Prof. F. Zeiler
Mr. J. Leclerc,
University Secretary

Dr. S. Coyston,
Recording Secretary

Assessors Present

Mr. J. Adams
Ms. C. Cyr
Prof. A. Farenhorst
Ms. E. Kalo
Prof. S. Kirkland
Prof. R. Lastra
Prof. C. Miller
Dr. T. Mondor
Dr. T. Peter
Prof. G. Smith
Dr. D. Stewart
Prof. E. Thomson
Dr. M. Torchia
Ms. B. Usick

Regrets

Dr. A. Abra
Ms. N. Andrew
Prof. N. Boorberg
Rectrice S. Bouffard
Mr. J. Cariou
Prof. M. Chung
Prof. N. Cicek
Dr. C. Cook
Dr. J. Doering
Ms. K. Everitt
Prof. A. Halayko
Prof. M. Hudson
Dean A. Kelekis-
Cholakis
Prof. J. Lavoie
Dean M. Locher
Chancellor A. Mahon
Prof. S. Mallory-Hill
Prof. D. Martin
Mr. D. Ness
Ms. L. O'Hara
Mx. K. O'Brien
Prof. G. Prehna
Prof. S. Prentice

Ms. D. Radi
Prof. T. Reeve
Acting Dean B.
Silvestre
Dean J. Taylor

Absent

Dr. J. Blatz
Very Rev. R. Bozyk
Dean D. Brown
Prof. R. Chernomas
Prof. G. Hicks
Prof. D. Ireland
Ms. K. Kerr
Mr. M. Koldon
Mr. V. Krishnan
Prof. D. Mackey
Prof. Q. Mujawar
Ms. K. Nicolasora
Dean B. Postl
Dean. M. Scanlon
Mr. B. Scott
Ms. S. Sekander
Prof. R. Souleymanov
Prof. V. Sparks
Mr. R. Talukder
Dean R. Urbanowski
Mr. A. Vij

Also Present

Prof. S. Close
Ms. C. Davidson
Ms. L. Orsak-Williams
Ms. M. Watson

**I RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH TEAM
OF THE CONTINUITY STEERING COMMITTEE AND THE
SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**1. Revised Academic Schedule, Return to Teaching,
December 7, 2021**

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President Benarroch thanked Senators for joining the meeting on short notice. The one item of business was a recommendation from the Academic and Research Team of the Continuity Steering Committee, to make several adjustments to the revised Academic Schedule, Scenario 4, following a return to teaching on December 7, 2021, including revisions to the Winter Term Break. The Senate Executive Committee had endorsed the changes when it met on December 8th.

Dr. Torchia, Chair, Academic and Research Team, recalled that at a meeting on November 17, 2021, the Senate Executive Committee had approved, on behalf of Senate, revisions to the 2021 – 2022 Academic Schedule as presented in Scenario 4. The changes were to be implemented if there was a return to teaching by December 7th. Following the resumption of classes on that date and a final review of the revised Academic Schedule, the Academic and Research Team and the Senate Executive Committee were recommending several modifications to Scenario 4. Dr. Torchia briefly reviewed the recommended changes,* including that the:

- alternate examination period for 2021 Fall Term be expanded from three to four days, to address the number of examination conflicts that had been identified when the Office of the Registrar and Enrolment Services (ORES) had developed the examination schedule;
- February 2022 graduation date be extended by two weeks, a second graduation date be established in March to accommodate any students who are not able to meet the first date, and the Faculty of Graduate Studies submission deadline for graduating students be extended and a second submission deadline be established in March;
- Voluntary Withdrawal deadline for the 2022 Winter Term be moved from the 48th day of classes to the last day of classes;
- full 2022 Winter Term Break be reinstated;
- examination period for the 2022 Winter Term be compressed from eleven days to eight days, with four examination slots per day, with no examination to be longer than two hours.

*[*Secretary's note: Subsequent to the meeting, to address an omission discovered in the proposal, the end date for Winter/Summer Term spanning distance and online courses was revised from July 8 to July 15, 2022.]*

Dr. Torchia said the University had heard concerns from students and faculty about the shortening of Winter Term Break, in the original Scenario 4. While the current revisions responded to these concerns, he noted the proposal for a compressed Winter Term examination period would have different associated

stresses, including shorter timeframes for instructors to submit final grades and for faculties, colleges, and schools to review students for graduation.

Dr. Torchia referred committee members to the agenda for details on proposed changes to other dates and deadlines in the 2021 – 2022 Academic Schedule.

Professor Faubert MOVED, seconded by Ms. Schnarr, THAT Senate approve the recommendation of the Academic and Research Team that, with a return to teaching of striking UMFA members on December 7, 2021, the Academic Schedule modifications as presented in the revised Scenario 4 be implemented, effective upon Senate approval.

In response to questions, Dr. Torchia confirmed that, in the condensed examination period for the 2022 Winter Term, no examination could be scheduled for longer than two hours, whether it was for a 3 credit hour or a 6 credit hour course. Mr. Adams said a decision had yet to be made on whether the first of the four, two-hour examination time slots would begin at 8:30 or 9:00 a.m.

Professor Raouf asked how the condensed examination period would impact students in terms of exam conflicts. For example, would students potentially have to write two or more examinations on the same day.

Dr. Torchia said, although the examination period would be compressed, the same principles would apply with respect to examination conflicts, and the same efforts would be made to prevent conflicts.

In response to follow-up questions, Mr. Adams confirmed there would be no changes to what is considered to be an examination conflict. An examination conflict occurs either where a student has two examinations scheduled at the same time or has examinations scheduled in three consecutive exam time slots. Having two examinations scheduled in consecutive time slots was not considered to be a conflict. A student could potentially have three examinations scheduled in one day, with two of the examinations scheduled consecutively; this would not be considered a conflict. Efforts would be made to minimize the number of students who might be required to write three examinations in one day.

President Benarroch recalled from the discussion at Senate Executive that the condensed examination period would include thirty-two examination time slots versus the thirty-three time slots that would be available in a normal examination period. This would make it possible to avoid exam conflicts for a majority of students.

In response to a question, Dr. Torchia said the recommendation that the Voluntary Withdrawal deadline for the 2022 Winter Day be moved to the last day of classes was intended to give students more time to make adjustments to their schedule and their own learning, as needed, taking into consideration the various adjustments that will be made to the term, as well as the continuing pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Bunt expressed support for the recommendation to reinstate the full Winter Term Break. Referring to the recommendation to move the Voluntary Withdrawal deadline to the last day of classes, she asked whether consideration had been given to how this would impact courses with group work. She identified challenges for students, where a member of their group withdrew from the course late in the term, and for instructors to administer the changes.

Dr. Torchia confirmed that consideration had been given to the potential impacts given the variety of different courses and assignment styles. It would be difficult to find a solution that would work for every single case. The Academic and Research Team had felt strongly that moving the Voluntary Withdrawal deadline to the last day of classes was the most appropriate option for students. The Team anticipated instructors would consider the particular implications for their courses and, perhaps, make adjustments to support students' success in the courses.

In response to a question, Dr. Torchia clarified that the Voluntary Withdrawal deadline was different from the last date to drop classes without penalty. Mr. Adams said the last day to drop courses without penalty would be Friday, February 4, 2022. The last day to add courses, which was the last day of the registration revision period, would be Monday, February 7th.

Professor Luo noted that the final grade appeal deadline for the 2021 Fall Term would be moved February 11, 2022. She enquired about the deadline for instructors to submit final grades.

Mr. Adams replied that final grades would continue to be due by the end of the fourth day following the conclusion of the examination period. For courses with a final examination scheduled in the alternate examination period, which will end on January 23, 2022, the deadline to submit final grades would be the end of the day on January 27th. Details on end of term dates would be finalized and circulated following Senate's decision on the recommended changes.

Professor Sorenson supported the reinstatement of the full the Winter Term Break, which he anticipated students would appreciate. He asked if there had been discussion of extending the Winter Term examination period to Friday, May 5th, rather than Wednesday, May 3rd, as proposed.

Dr. Torchia said extending the examination period beyond May 3rd would have consequences for other dates and deadlines, including the start of the 2022 Summer Term. The Chair commented that students' co-op placements and summer jobs often start at the beginning of May, as well.

Ms. Kalo said the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) strongly supports the recommended revisions to Scenario 4. The Student Senate Caucus had also voted to support the changes when it met on the previous day. The recommendation to reinstate the full Winter Term Break was a necessity for the student body. Ms. Kalo said she had heard overwhelmingly from students that the loss of the break would not simply be an inconvenience but would be detrimental to their academic careers and their mental wellbeing. The strike by

faculty over the previous weeks and the pandemic over the previous eighteen months had been stressful for students, as they had been for the entire University community. Students were excited to return to in-person classes in January and to have a fresh start, but they also recognized the Winter Term would continue to require them to adapt to changes, which can be overwhelming for some students. Ms. Kalo said UMSU recognizes that students want to succeed and the institution wants to set up students for success. Senate's approval of proposed revisions to Scenario 4 would demonstrate to students that their voices are heard and that they are respected, valued, and cared for at the institution.

Mr. Dowie said the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association (UMGSA) supports the recommended revisions to Scenario 4. He proposed that, prior to the start of the Winter Term Break, a communication might be sent to remind graduate advisors to encourage students to use the break to support their mental health. This might be an important reminder, particularly for graduate students who were not registered in courses in that term.

Professor Nickel asked whether the dates for the Spring Convocation would need to be adjusted given proposed changes to the February graduation dates.

Mr. Leclerc said students who graduated in February were invited to participate in the Spring Convocation ceremonies held in June. The dates for the June Convocation ceremonies would not be affected by the proposed changes to the February graduation dates.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

President Benarroch thanked Senators for their participation in the discussion. He remarked that the committee's decision was good for the University and its students. He thanked students for speaking up and making their voices heard.

II ADJOURNMENT

President Benarroch expressed his hope that members of Senate would enjoy time with loved ones and have some time for renewal over the holidays.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

These minutes pages 1 to 5, together with the agenda, pages 1 to 6, comprise the minutes of the Special Meeting of Senate held on December 10, 2021.