

## General Questions

### **For accommodations, will the medical documentation requirement be waived for those who are known to be immune compromised?**

- The University has always had an established process for those with medical conditions for those to return to work/ continue with remote work
- There is now a working group in place to address requests specific to COVID accommodations in response to the return to campus order; there are no recommendations to date, but the group discussion is led by Faculty Relations and Employee Relations who will make recommendations to the Steering Committee

### **Is it expected that there will be any accommodations for those who don't feel safe, but do not have health conditions?**

- Unfortunately, we don't know, but we can imagine that there are many of us in this group. Thank you for all the work you've done this year, to keep yourself safe and sane, but there are many things we don't know, including how, if at all, those accommodations will deal with perceptions of safety.

### **Dr. Henry encouraged those who are immunocompromised to get the vaccine - with very few cases of medical conditions that are not able - how will we manage this?**

- Managed one step at a time and probably with many steps backwards; you make the best decisions on any given day and can only hope for the best outcome. The expectation that everyone who would like to have a vaccine will be vaccinated by the end of June.

### **What are other institutions across Canada doing for medical accommodations?**

- Unfortunately, we don't have the answer. However, it is our understanding that other universities outside of BC would be working under their own Provincial Public Health Authorities and Ordinances, etc., and will become clearer as we continue to move through the pandemic.

### **Will individuals with only one vaccine dose be expected to return to campus?**

- At this point in time, there is no clear directive from central University communications.
- If the work is campus-based but deemed suitable to be done remotely, participating in the remote work program is voluntary; no one is required to work remotely.
- There is currently no 100% remote work at the early stages of the Return to Work Program

### **What level of decision-making does the FoE have? For example, can the FoE decide that staff members can return until they get their 2nd vaccine dose?**

- Our understanding is that because the University-wide Remote Work Guidelines will be communicated in late May; guided by this document, the Faculty will determine

our own decisions of when and how we will implement and roll-out the remote work program in Education. At this time, since we have yet to see the document, we can't give a definitive answer.

- There are some items through the consultation process that will likely be included to remain central goals in our work, grounded by University operational needs, and not personal preferences:
  - o Enhancing students learning experience
  - o Fostering innovative research environments
  - o Protecting university culture
- Deans are responsible for the decisions made in their own Faculty, based on their own local program and operational needs; similar positions in different Faculties may have different arrangements and are approved on a case-by-case basis

### **Are there any definite Updates on cost of quarantine?**

- Unfortunately, this question is not within the scope of this committee or any of the Working Groups for us to answer.

### **Are there supports in place for students overall mental wellbeing as they transition back to face to face?**

- UBC Central Student Services has several resources for mental health and well-being in relation to COVID-19: <https://students.ubc.ca/health/mental-health-during-covid-19>

### **Working Group: Faculty**

#### **As workloads have already been decided, we also need to look at W2. Are we empowered to make the decision or discuss options of delivery with Heads with W2?**

- The options of delivery are being considered by Heads with their leadership teams. Any concerns that you have regarding courses that you are teaching should be directed to your Head/ Director.

#### **What if some students want f2f and some want online. Is the instructor's choice? Or do I try to accommodate for all the students?**

- Students are enrolled in courses that have a particular footprint prior to COVID (ie. B.Ed is face-to-face, MET is online). Students won't have the choice to change how that program is delivered, similarly to how faculty aren't able to make that change. The University calls for a hybrid mode of deliver for programs that have the possibility to participate online and in-person. It is up to the departments and the Faculty to decide; historically with courses with a high number of international enrollment, Department Heads and Directors can make those decisions, but that needs to be done before June 1 for planning purposes.
- To add to the idea of higher international student enrollment: International students must quarantine; however, the hotel route is needed due to limitations of on-campus accommodations. The question then arises, who eats up the cost for this. Another

complication are visa applications being approved on a timeline of 18-35 weeks on average, prolonging the process to come into Canada.

**Faculty accommodation: whatever the policy to come, will there be a forum to assist heads of unit's pool responses across units...?**

- In the recommendations provided from Faculty Relations and Employee Relations on the Return to Work program, there will be clear guidelines for Heads and Managers for how to respond, along with a form developed for employees to make this request. Again, there are no recommendations yet, as the Working Group is still in discussions.

**For faculty who require medical accommodations, is this done on an individual basis or is there a blanket policy?**

- At the moment, we don't know what the process will be. It is fair to say that based on the non-COVID related medical accommodations policies, there will be a procedure that will cover all faculty and it will be akin to the non-COVID related medical accommodations. Hopefully we will have more information from UBC Central soon.

### Working Group: Hybridization

**How will the process to select courses for redesign to permanent online modality be handled, for delivery in 2022-2023?**

- The decision in terms of what will be online/ face-to-face is based on the Department/ Unit/ School. Our ETS unit will support that decision and provide Learning Designers and Technologists who will help with redesigning those courses.

**Can you please give a few more details about what a hybrid delivery would look like - tech-enhanced classroom? Online students listening in only?**

- Our understanding of what is expected is that many students would meet face-to-face, and a subset of students would be participating remotely. It may be a case that faculty would be broadcasting their face-to-face classes; however, a broadcast was sent that no faculty member will be required to broadcast their lectures. This would be a question for individual faculty to decide on whether they want to broadcast, and how the students participating remotely would fulfill the course requirements. Another arbitrary term, "blended," could be used in this case to have all students in the course participate in asynchronous activities that all students can do in order to successfully complete a hybrid course.

**The designation of a course as "hybrid" still seems arbitrary. It is driven mainly by whether there are international studies registered or not?**

- Based on conversations at the Academic Associate Deans' Meetings, there were many discussions about what terms should be used for this mode of delivery. Hybrid is the term that the University has chosen in order to specifically designate pre-

COVID courses that were delivered face-to-face, but now have a predictable significant cohort that would need remote learning available (currently, international students are the most predictable).

- These hybrid courses are appropriately designated courses that the program that the students involved in will not carry accreditation risks of taking courses online. These decisions are made by the accrediting bodies that courses are linked to (ie. Teacher Education Program).

**Could you explain further what the hybrid model would entail in terms of content delivery and class structure?**

**Will there be some upgrades to more classrooms so that those who are teaching hybrid courses will have access to quality technology in the room?**

- We are unaware of specific COVID-related upgrades. There have been discussions of “technology carts” that would have information/ infrastructure where a section can join remotely and broadcast within the lecture room as done over Zoom.
- There is a Central University working group that includes an environmental scan in relation to available technologies and ventilation services on-campus to make sure appropriate services are made available for everyone’s return.

**Is using a flipped classroom approach (recorded lecture) and in-person discussions a possibility?**

- Yes; faculty (un-related to COVID), are in a position to make pedagogically-appropriate choices when it comes to asynchronous activity. We are fortunate with our recently approved Block Grant, that we will be able to continue to fund our Learning Designers to assist faculty in making improvements and enhancements to Canvas shells for courses between now and September.

**Are moving forward with Plan A or is Plan C still an option at this point?**

- Currently it is Plan A all the way into Labour Day; Plan C is always on the table. At any point where it’s determined by the PHO that an immediate pivot is necessitated, we would pivot as a synchronized group, or dependent on an outbreak in a class, residence, cohort, etc., where the University would need to assist in limiting the outbreak.

**For courses that are coded face to face, can we change them to hybrid if the need arises later on?**

- A challenge is that Heads and Directors must make the decision to make courses “hybrid” now, and not later into the summer months, in order to align with scheduling and course availability for students. The department, unit or school has to deal with students deciding to delay or defer programs in favour of face-to-face learning, but still have courses available for students who wish to participate in hybrid models. Should the need arise when the scheduling cycle returns and we plan for Winter Term 2, then the specific department/ unit/ school can reassess the modes of delivering courses.

**If my September courses deliver online, can I start my study from my home country?**

- This is dependent on your program. Each program is handling their own course delivery; yes, you should be able to start your study from your home country.

**I am going to start Master of Arts in Education and all my 9 credits in September semester are deliver online .can I study from my home country?**

- Yes, you should be able to attend from home; however, please contact your Program Coordinator directly for confirmation.

**Working Group: Facilities and Staff Affairs**

**Has there been safety guidelines considered for the Osborne gym? Are physical activity classes a go for September?**

- Kinesiology currently has a Safety Plan in place for our Outreach programs, specifically Active Kids. There will be a flexible model for courses starting in September that involve high physical activity or leadership will be shifted in Term 2 and avoid interaction in Term 1. We will continue to use our space safety plans and make sure they align with the Faculty and central UBC.

**To be clear, the levels of cleaning/disinfection in Education buildings by custodial staff will be the same as in 'before times'?**

- UBC custodial services and UBC facilities websites have the most up-to-date information regarding how and when Custodial staff will be cleaning our facilities

**If the wearing of masks in Scarfe becomes mandatory, who will be responsible for ensuring people comply with this requirement?**

- What we would like to do is promote an environment of mask-wearing positivity so that we are all being supportive in our choice of wearing masks if that makes us feel safe. If there is a requirement for us to wear masks, then the buildings will have the appropriate signage and we would kindly ask visitors and guests to follow those requirements as outlined by UBC Central communications.

**You have talked about Ponderosa and Scarfe - what about signage, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, PPE etc. in all six of the kinesiology buildings?**

- We have desktop, Plexiglas shields, and plexi-face shields for staff. We have also provided hand sanitizer, cleansing wipes, and sanitizing stations in our buildings. An allocation of disposable masks are available for guests that visit our offices and do not have their own masks
- The entire Faculty was included on the Vancouver campus; however, signage within the building is dependent on who the major occupancy is of the building between user groups (ie. Athletics and Recreation, SHHS). An audit was recently, and

successfully completed by UBC Safety and Risk Services to ensure full compliance and provision of cleaning supplies.

### **Will M&P staff have different work arrangement options than CUPE staff?**

- Again, all the remote work arrangements are based on operational needs and based on how your role is expected to perform the work
- We are unaware of the distinctions between the different union groups; however, remote work is in both of the unions agreements pre-COVID

### **Who from UBC was consulted in the development of the Go Forward guidelines from the province (the Return-to-Campus Primer)?**

- This began at the President's Office and filtered through to the other on-campus groups and portfolios (academic, classroom services, safety and risk services, etc.) as a broad consultation.

### **Other units are in Ponderosa F. What is the ventilation in these spaces?**

- UBC Facilities is working with SRS Building HVAC systems for central air handling units. Our building standard information has not been given for all facilities the Faculty currently reside in
- The HVAC working group that UBC Central has convened is working with the BC CDC and looking into additional technical measures that can bring our ventilation up to standards; we assume more information will be brought forward in the summer months.

### **What if the Province and University allow Faculties to implement permanent remote work? Will we lead the University?**

- This is a decision that would be made by the Dean and Senior Leadership; again, all remote work arrangements are based on operational needs and based on how your role is expected to perform the work, aligning with the Public Health Authorities and Provincial Health Office.

### **Working Group: Research**

No questions arose for this working group during the Town Hall.

### **Working Group: Graduate Programs and Students**

#### **Do we tell international grad students with visa delays wondering if they can start a program online in Sept to wait till course delivery formats are final Jun 1?**

- We don't have any definitive direction yet, but with course delivery outline available soon, students will have a better impression of what is available to them online and can follow up with specific programs

#### **For a graduate course that is designated hybrid, what roles are envisioned for GTAs?**

- Those decisions would fall to their specific units/ departments

**Will students be able to take a term off if they are uncomfortable with the provincial health guidelines and how they are applied in the fall?**

- Grad students can always apply for a personal/ medical leave of absences; so if the student is feeling uncomfortable, they should talk to their program GPA and their Supervisor to see what is in their best interest

**Who decides how graduate courses will be delivered (online or in person)?**

- Refer to questions answered in the Working groups: Faculty and Hybridization

**Dr. Porter: Is there any other news you can share that hasn't been covered?**

- The Town Hall has been quite comprehensive in answering questions
- I would encourage you to listen to Bonnie Henry's Town Hall, which was very informative and encouraging

**Working Group: Undergraduate Programs and Student**

**Can you please confirm that the Teacher Education program will be completely face to face and no option for a hybrid delivery?**

- The Teacher Education program must be delivered face-to-face due to the accreditation requirements needed to graduate.

**Will Health Outdoor Physical Education (HOPE) courses in the B.Ed Program that are scheduled for term 1 continue as scheduled in the Osborne Gym and outdoors?**

- Currently they are scheduled as usual to be held either outdoors or in Osborne Gym

**Re practicum, any arrangements in relation to safety in schools?**

- Every jurisdiction has their own safety plans they are expected to follow (sanitizing, mask wearing, washing hands, cohort bubbles, etc.) which will be determined as we move into the fall and as orders are updated by the Provincial Health Authority.

**Can you repeat the information about asynchronous components of B.Ed courses? Would these be for homework-only purposes?**

- BEd courses will be held in person in the fall. However, every course will have a Canvas course shell in which instructors would be able to post resources and course materials, post PowerPoints, and enable discussions, etc., that could be accessed asynchronously.

**Do you anticipate accepting the same number of students into the B.Ed program as last year -- about 750?**

- Yes, the same number of students will be accepted into the BEd program as last year.