



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Academic Board

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DATE: November 15, 2017 for November 23, 2017

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Update on the *DRAFT University-Mandated Leave of Absence Policy*

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under Section 4 of its *Terms of Reference*, the following matters fall under the purview of the Academic Board:

“The Academic Board is responsible for consideration of policy in the academic area and for monitoring matters within its area of responsibility. In general, the Board is concerned with matters affecting the teaching, learning, and research functions of the University, the establishment of University objectives and priorities, the development of long-term and short-term plans and the effective use of resources in the course of these pursuits.”

GOVERNANCE PATH:

For Information and Discussion

1. University Affairs Board [for information] (October 2, 2017)
2. UTSC Campus Council [for information] (October 3, 2017)
3. UTM Campus Council [for information] (October 4, 2017)
4. Academic Board [for information] (October 5, 2017)

For Information and Discussion

1. University Affairs Board [for information] (November 20, 2017)
2. UTM Campus Council [for information] (November 21, 2017)
3. UTSC Campus Council [for information] (November 22, 2017)
4. **Academic Board [for information]** (November 23, 2017)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The Draft *Policy* was discussed in Cycle 1 meetings of the University Affairs Board, the UTM Campus Council, the UTSC Campus Council and the Academic Board.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Constructive feedback on the draft *Policy* continues to be provided, and as a result, changes to the draft *Policy* are being considered.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information Only

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- N/A

Update on the Draft

University-Mandated Leave of Absence Policy



Why

Currently, students exhibiting significant behavioural concerns indicating a safety risk where serious mental health or similar issues are present may be subject to the *Student Code of Conduct* – a disciplinary *Code* – or to unilateral action pursuant to the University’s obligations under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, or both.

Why is Scenario 2 included

Students unable to engage in the essential activities required to pursue an education where serious mental health or similar issues are present, notwithstanding accommodations or supportive resources, may experience detrimental effects on their academic record.

Goals

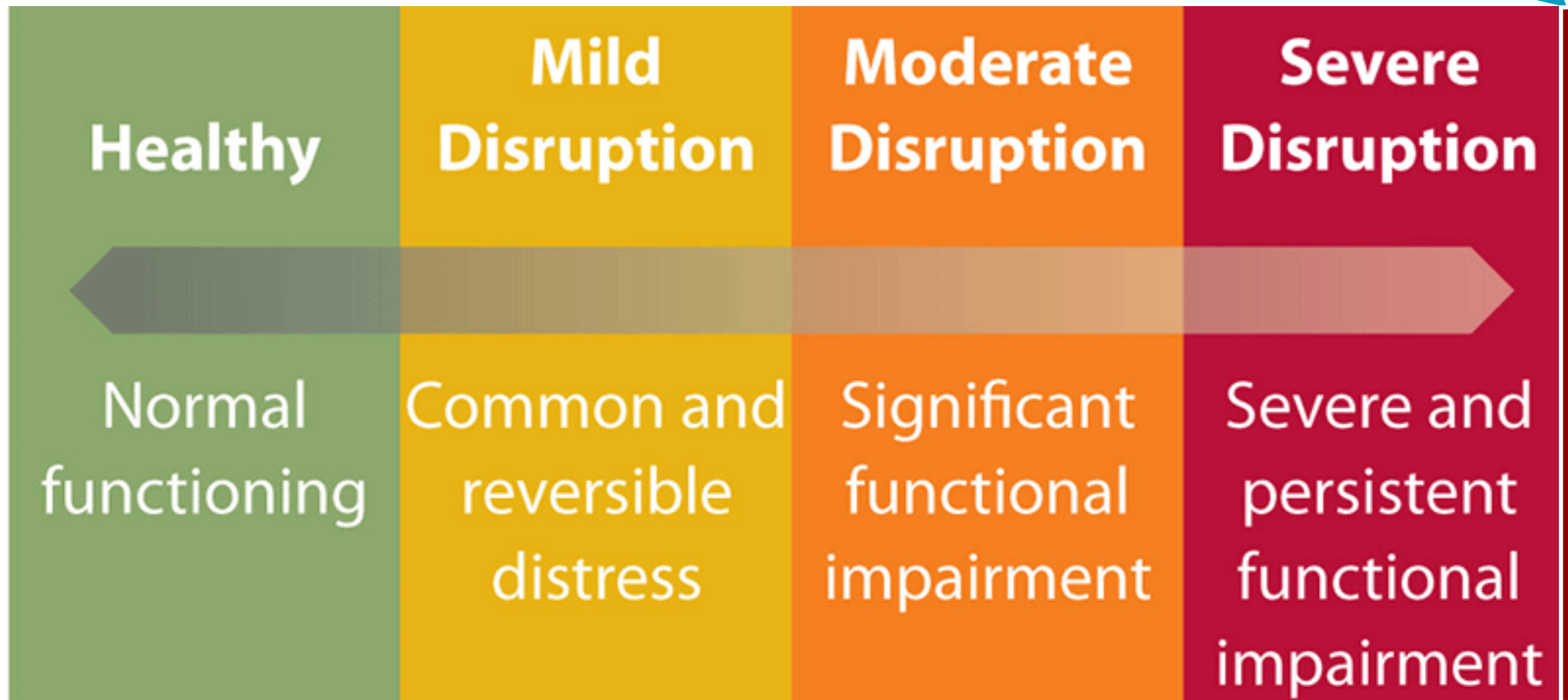
To identify accommodations and other resources that could assist the Student to continue in the academic program without a Leave of Absence.

If a leave is required:

To have the Student resume academic activities safely and with a reasonable prospect of engaging in the basic activities required to pursue an education.

What is “Serious”

The Mental Health Continuum



Before a University-Mandated Leave

- Division Head needs to determine if action under the Policy is appropriate
- Vice-Provost, Students needs to determine if initial action is needed
 - Initial action: Appoint a Student Case Manager and Student Support Team
 - Review of supports and services provided to date.
- Vice-Provost, Students seeks whatever information is deemed useful based on the circumstances of the case, including expert external assistance.
 - external assistance could include a risk assessment (such as a psychiatric risk assessment), or medical or behavioural assessments, at the University's expense and with the Student's consent to disclosure of the information obtained

Common Questions/Comments

1. Threshold for Intervention language is too broad.
2. The assessment of a medical professional should be required.
3. Who would be the Student Case Manager and the individuals on the Student Support Team (SST)?
4. Timelines regarding the appeal process (too long or too short).
5. Ability to access University resources during a leave.
6. What notation would be placed on the Transcript?
7. What is the impact on international students and students receiving OSAP?
8. Provide more clarity regarding the return to studies process.