



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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AGENDA ITEM: 9 (a)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Report on Academic Disruption Due to the Ontario Public Service Employees Union Strike

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

As per the *Grading Practices Policy* Section II.3, the Committee of Academic Policy and Programs receives a report on the implementation of procedures and changes to the status of academic programs as a result of the declaration of an academic disruption.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Vice-President and Provost declared an academic disruption under the *Grading Practices Policy* Section II(3) on March 22, 2006, as a result of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) strike. The OPSEU strike affected University of Toronto students in eight joint programs offered with Centennial and Sheridan Colleges. Not all students in these joint programs were affected by the disruption. The OPSEU strike began on March 7 and ended on March 27, 2006.

As per the *Policy*, the declaration of a disruption allowed changes to be made in academic programs which maintained their integrity without negatively affecting students. All changes to practices were implemented in consultation with the colleges. The University community has been informed of the disruption and changes through email, the University web site, and direct divisional communications to their students.

The following sections summarize the key academic changes to University programs:

University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM)

The University of Toronto at Mississauga offers three programs jointly with Sheridan College: art and art history; communication, culture and technology; and theatre and drama. Throughout the strike, affected students were apprised of developments and expectations of them during this period through the UTM program websites, and through meetings with student clubs for these programs.

In the classroom, each instructor discussed, on a class-by-class basis, how the remaining work would be completed in each course, in accordance with the Disruption guidelines.

With very few exceptions, UTM-Sheridan students were not required to complete additional make-up classes following the end of term. Students were advised that if they wished to drop their joint program course under the Disruption procedures, they could withdraw without academic penalty. Students were

advised that they had to visit the UTM's Office of the Registrar to meet with an academic adviser in order to assess the implications for their OSAP and for their academic status.

Art and Art History: During the strike students enrolled in FAS courses were advised to keep working independently on projects for submission on April 6 and readings that were assigned by the faculty before the strike. This work was graded by instructors when the students returned to the class. It is expected that grades for all FAS courses will be based on the entire term's work. In exceptional cases, final grades may be based on a pro-rating of graded student work (and other components of the course grade such as participation) completed before the strike.

Communication, Culture, and Information Technology: During the strike students enrolled in CCIT courses were advised to work independently on projects and readings that were assigned by the faculty before the strike. In such cases, students in CCIT courses were expected to continue their reading and complete all previously assigned work for submission by mid-April. Students were expected to complete at least 70% of the total assessment scheme for each of their courses. Should the combination of previously completed work and work already assigned but not yet submitted comprise less than 70% of the overall grade students were assigned additional work once the strike ended in order to achieve this threshold. Students enrolled in CCT 421H were assigned an extension in time for completion of their work equal in length to the duration of the strike. All assignments were graded by the students' instructors.

Theatre and Drama Studies: For any courses that lend themselves to independent preparation, students were advised that they were expected to proceed on projects assigned prior to the strike. When the strike ended, a minimum of two classes in each subject were scheduled for presentation, adjudication and evaluation of these projects. Final grades for these courses will be based on an entire term's work. For other courses (voice and dance training, for example), a combination of previously completed and ongoing assignments were assessed directly following the strike to determine a final grade. If final grades in any course needed to be pro-rated based on work submitted, they were based on no less than 70% of the normal course evaluation.

University of Toronto at Scarborough (UTSC)

UTSC operates five programs jointly with Centennial College: journalism, new media studies, paramedicine, environmental science and technology, and industrial microbiology. The first week of the strike coincided with Reading Week at Centennial College and thus students in these joint programs were not affected by the disruption. Nevertheless, measures have been taken to ensure the academic integrity of the programs.

Conclusion

All academic programs changes have been made to ensure that students are able to continue with their studies while maintaining program integrity. As much as feasible, students have been consulted on program changes.

The Provost wishes to thank the faculty and staff in the affected divisions for their efforts to ensure that students completed their programs. I also wish to thank the students who have been understanding of the changes that had to be made to their programs as a result of the labour action.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: For Information.