

October 29, 2020

Dear UTSC faculty,

I value your sustained and dedicated support of our academic mission. I wrote to you on June 26, 2020 detailing our plans for the delivery of Winter term course elements. Now is the time for an update.

Students, staff, and faculty understandably are asking questions about potential changes for the Winter term reflective of the current state of COVID in Ontario and in particular in Toronto. We have been carefully considering our options.

We start with the framework I announced in June, reproduced in point form below:

*Overarching directive: Course offerings remain largely remote with some in-person elements that are guided by the following considerations.*

1. *We guarantee a pathway to graduation for those eligible to graduate next June.*
2. *We ensure every first year offering can be completed remotely.*
3. *We prioritize in-person graduate offerings and in-person undergraduate course elements that cannot be delivered remotely for initial space allocation.*
4. *For courses with mandatory in-person elements (i.e., with no corresponding remote component), we guarantee that they will be repeated in subsequent terms.*
5. *We provide other in-person elements as restrictions permit, as space permits and for faculty who are willing.*
6. *For any in-person offering we need a remote backup plan in the event of a return to restrictions that will not allow for such in-person elements.*

From the standpoint of the "second wave" Ontario is experiencing we affirm this framework but may now need to invoke some of the embedded caveats. On October 9<sup>th</sup> the province announced a return to Stage 2 in a modified form that took effect on October 10<sup>th</sup> for 28 days. This resulted in stopping all in-person course elements this fall and I communicated this to you on October 10<sup>th</sup>. We will remain with this mode of delivery for the Fall.

The 28-day period ends on November 7<sup>th</sup>. At that point the city of Toronto may return to Stage 3, continue with the modified Stage 2 or we could have further restrictions imposed. These plans will inform what is possible for the Winter.

If we return to Stage 3, then we will continue with our current plan for the Winter that was very similar to the early fall, with the addition of labs and other elements that cannot be done remotely.

If we continue with the modified Stage 2, we will only offer in-person course elements that cannot be offered remotely, i.e. those deemed "essential" in terms of their learning outcomes, such as some laboratories, provided instructors are willing to do so.

If more restrictions are imposed we will revisit whether laboratories can be offered.

To ensure adequate preparation time both for faculty/instructors and students, I plan to make this decision no later than November 15<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Once again I thank you for your dedicated and innovative work in fulfilling our academic mission.

Yours sincerely



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