

MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Whereas emergency measures have been declared for the Province on Ontario regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, and Whereas the Ontario Tech University will begin to re-open only based on the guidance of Public Health Ontario, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, or other provincial officials, It is moved that Academic Council recognizes that Ontario Tech University needs to be prepared to deliver courses in an emergency remote mode as may be necessary in Fall 2020.
2. Furthermore that Ontario Tech University will return to established modes of teaching as soon as possible after Ontario Public Health declares this as safe.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL MOTION:

Preamble:

Many faculty, staff, and students are paying attention to re-open mandates that are starting to emerge across the country. In Ontario, we are hearing a lot of concern on social media, governmental press conferences, newscasts, and so on, about how and when we will start returning back to work under health precaution restrictions. The Premier's Office has implemented a gradual return-to-work process as well as a gradual lifting of restrictions over the next weeks and months. Various workplaces are being asked to resume work, but with accommodation for social distancing, remote working, and so on. Universities are discussing reduced lab sizes, placing smaller classes in larger classrooms, and other forms of accommodation to this pandemic. (See for example this report from NPR: https://www.npr.org/2020/05/05/848033805/6-ways-college-might-look-different-in-the-fall?utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_source=facebook.com)

At OntarioTechU, faculty, staff, and students, have been having discussions with their Deans, and with each other, about returning back to campus for a more normalized non-remote learning experience. This motion is being presented so that we, as Academic Council Members can discuss concerns about the coming year and when work may resume a more normal structure. Further, Academic Council must consider parameters of what exiting out of this emergency mode of operations at OntarioTechU would look like.

Finally, our Quality Assurance Handbook makes it clear that a broad change in mode of delivery are Major Program Changes and, as such, require consultation and approval by all levels including program curriculum committees, faculty councils, and Academic Council, as well as external accrediting bodies.

Motion:

Whereas emergency measures have been declared for the Province on Ontario regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, and

Whereas the Ontario Tech University will begin to re-open only based on the guidance of Public Health Ontario, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, or other provincial officials,

It is moved that Academic Council recognizes that Ontario Tech University needs to be prepared to deliver courses in an emergency remote mode as may be necessary in Fall 2020. Furthermore that Ontario Tech University will return to established modes of teaching as soon as possible after Ontario Public Health declares this as safe.

The following motion was raised and passed unanimously in two faculty councils, Faculty of Sciences and Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences and there might be others.

Motion: That any permanent change in mode of delivery of FSCI/FEAS programs at Ontario Tech University must follow proper channels and approvals in accordance with the Quality Assurance Handbook including but not limited to program committees, department councils, faculty council(s) and academic council; and that all possible steps are to be taken to allow us to return to pre-Covid-19 emergency delivery methods as quickly as possible when Public Health Ontario allows us to.