



York University Senate

Notice of Special Meeting

Thursday, 29 February 2024, 3:00pm-5:00pm

Via videoconference

AGENDA

	Page
1. Chair's Remarks (P. Puri)	
2. Committee Report	
a. Executive (L. Sergio).....	1

Note: At a Special Meeting of Senate, no business is transacted except for items listed on the agenda page (i.e., there is no “other business” at a special meeting; Rules of Senate, S. 3.3. b).

P. Robichaud, Secretary

Executive Committee – Report to Senate

At its meeting of 29 February 2024

FOR INFORMATION

a. Special Meeting of Senate

This special meeting of Senate has been called by the Chair, in consultation with the Executive Committee, in conjunction with the Committee’s responsibilities under the Senate Disruptions Policy to consult with Senate as it continues to discharge its mandate under this policy.

b. Actions Taken by the Committee Prior to and Since the Outset of the Disruption

Attached as Appendix A is a chronology of actions taken by Senate Executive prior to and since the beginning of the disruption that began on 26 February 2024.

c. Consultation of Senate on Ways to Sustain Academic Integrity of Programming

When a disruption to academic activities is declared, the primary obligation of Senate is to ensure the academic integrity of all programs. That obligation is expressed through the Senate [Policy on the Academic Implications of Disruptions or Cessations of University Business Due to Labour Disputes or Other Causes](#) (Disruptions Policy). That policy also confirms Senate’s companion commitment to support students’ completion of courses and programs as fairly as possible and maintaining a high quality learning experience.

We are in the first week of a labour disruption. A quick settlement is in the best interest of all parties and is the hoped for outcome. Some classes are continuing, others are not. Course instructors continuing with their programming are determining if or the extent to which their courses, seminars, graduate supervision, labs, practica, etc., have been affected and deciding on any remedial actions to exercise to preserve academic integrity of their course / activity.

If the strike continues into a second week and beyond, remediation actions determined by Senate Executive will be needed to support students’ completion of courses in a timely fashion. Such actions are guided by the pillars of the Disruption Policy: academic integrity and fairness to students. To that end, the Executive Committee began a preliminary discussion with the University Registrar of pressure points in the Winter term sessional dates and possible options for schedule changes should they be necessary. Consideration will also need to be given to adjustments of academic regulations and policies to support students’ completion of academic activities.

In its responsibility to oversee the process of directing and implementing the necessary remedial action for academic activities, Executive reports to and consults Senate at intervals during the disruption. The Chair of Senate, under guidance from the Committee,

Executive Committee – Report to Senate

is convening Senate at this early juncture to receive input from Senators to inform planning and decisions on remedial actions that support the completion of courses with academic integrity and fairness to students maintained should they be necessary in a long disruption. For example, input on remedial actions could include opinions on the academic rationales for and against full suspension of academic activities. The goal of the discussion is to identify the kinds of actions that benefit students' ability to successfully complete their courses and the academic session.

One remedial action that has been [authorized by Senate Executive](#) is an extension of the deadline to drop a course without academic penalty to the last day of classes. Making this option available to students provides them additional time to weigh the impact of the disruption on their courses and their ability to participate in them before determining whether it is in their best interest to withdraw from any of them.

For reference, substantive examples of other kinds of adjustments to academic regulations and modifications to schedules that have been taken in past long disruptions include:

- permit “assessed grades” (reduction in the portion of course work required, with exceptions)
- extend Pass / Fail options (extend to other courses, within limitations and with appropriate caution)
- revise the length of the term
- revise sessional dates and examination schedules
- authorize faculty members to adjust the number, kind and weight of assignments

The Committee looks forward to a constructive discussion and receiving Senators' views to assist with managing the impact of the disruption on academic activities.

Poonam Puri,
Chair

**Senate Executive Committee
Chronology of Meetings and Actions
2024 CUPE Disruption**

<p>February 6 Regular meeting of Executive</p>	<p>Committee provided notice of the possibility of a strike by CUPE 3903 as the parties could be in a legal position for a work stoppage as early as 22 February 2024.</p>
<p>February 23 Special meeting of Executive Communication</p>	<p>With a strike appearing possible within days (“imminent” in the words of the <i>Senate Policy on the Academic Implications of Disruptions or Cessations of University Business Due to Labour Disputes or Other Causes</i>), the Committee held a special meeting to review the circumstances and the Disruptions Policy, after which it issued a “Statement on Academic Implications of Potential Strike of CUPE 3903.”</p>
<p>February 26 Communication</p>	<p>On the first day of the strike by CUPE 3903, the Committee issued a formal declaration that there had been a significant disruption of academic activities.</p>
<p>February 27 Special meeting of Executive</p>	<p>At a special meeting, the Committee began to actively monitor the disruption and to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with Senate Policy. The Chair confirmed that the University Registrar had been requested to inform and update relevant external bodies about the Disruption and use best efforts to have external deadlines extended as necessary, and that the Dean of Libraries was notified of their role to disseminate information about the impact of a Disruption on access to collections and services.</p> <p>A preliminary discussion was held with the University Registrar about pressure points in the Winter term sessional dates and possible options for schedule changes should they be necessary.</p> <p>An extension of the deadline to drop courses without academic penalty was approved. [Decision was thereafter communicated to Senate and posted on Senate site].</p> <p>The Secretary reported that collegial governance activities have been largely unaffected to date.</p> <p>A decision was taken to call a special meeting of Senate for the purpose of consulting Senate as the committee continues to discharge its mandate of overseeing the process of directing and implementing necessary remedial actions.</p>

28 February 2024