



Strike by CUPE 3903 and its Impact on Academic Activities: Immediate Suspension of Most Academic Activities

Communication from the Executive Committee of Senate

March 3, 2015

Members of CUPE 3903 have begun a strike that has substantially disrupted academic activities at the University. In accordance with the Senate's **Policy on the Academic Implications of Disruptions or Cessations of University Business Due to Labour Disputes or Other Causes**, the Executive Committee of Senate has decided that, at the outset, all classes, examinations and related instructional activities are **suspended**. This suspension applies to all courses with the following exceptions:

- non-degree courses not involving CUPE 3903 members
- activities already scheduled off campus, such as off-campus courses, practicums, placements or internships not involving CUPE 3903 members (please check the University's website and with your programs to determine if you are affected – see www.yorku.ca/labour2015)
- degree credit activities offered through the Osgoode Hall Law School at its downtown Toronto site
- graduate degree credit activities at the Schulich School of Business, including the Schulich Executive Education program and Schulich-Kellogg courses

It is not known how long the strike will last. Changes to the list above may be required consistent with the principles as outlined in the Senate policy.

At the outset of the current disruption, the following steps have been taken:

- the Registrar and other University administrators have informed counterparts in Canada about the disruption at York and will use their best efforts to ensure that due dates for applications are extended
- Senate Executive has developed a plan to monitor the situation and keep the community informed if and when additional changes are necessary

In the case of a disruption that is six days long or shorter (defined as short disruptions by the Policy) normal academic regulations apply to all courses and related instructional activities (e.g. grading options or sessional dates). Unless a disruption goes beyond six days, individual faculty members are in the best situation to determine the extent to which their courses, seminars, graduate supervision, labs and the like have been affected and to determine what remedial action may be required. Only if the disruption goes beyond six days will it be necessary to implement more substantial remedial actions and to consider the adjustment of normal academic regulations.

When a disruption of any length occurs, students are entitled to immunity from penalty, to reasonable extensions of deadlines and to other remedies deemed necessary that are consistent with the principle of academic integrity. Such remedies do not alter academic standards. At the same time, they do not guarantee students the same learning experience they would have received in the absence of a disruption. Class schedules will not normally be reduced by more than the equivalent of one week.

Senate Executive urges members of the community to familiarize themselves with the Senate Policy, and to watch the University and Senate Websites for frequent updates.

The Senate "Disruptions Policy" can be accessed from this link

<http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-implications-of-disruptions-or-cessations-of-university-business-due-to-labour-disputes-or-other-causes-senate-policy-on-the/>

ROXANNE MYKITUK, Chair of Senate, March 3, 2015