Academic Consideration Requests

Preparing for Senate Policy Update November 2019

Academic Policy Review Committee

Purpose of Academic Consideration Request (ACR) Session

- Clarify the purpose of ACRs

- Provide background on Policy Review rationale

- Highlight proposed direction based on Winter/Spring 2019 consultations

- Receive Senate feedback to incorporate into policy draft

What is an Academic Consideration Request (ACR)?

- Based on the right of students *to ask* instructors for alternate arrangements related to their academic work based on an extenuating circumstance that is:

- Unanticipated
- Brief/acute
- Short-term (3 days)

- Currently most ACRs occur through a Health Certificate
- symptoms may be gone when requesting/receiving health certificate

What is an Academic Consideration Request (ACR)?

- A request *not* a requirement
- Decided by the course instructor, chair or director
- An alternate arrangement that can take several forms, Such as:

✓ Extension of a deadline
✓ Test deferral
✓ Reweighting of marks

*** Must adhere to Policy 166 Course Management***
Academic expectations must be met to complete a course successfully

Academic Consideration Requests are NOT

- Accommodations for temporary or permanent disabilities that have an impact on academic functioning (Pol 159)

- Accommodations for religious, aboriginal and spiritual observance (Pol 150)

- In violation of Academic Integrity Policy 60

ACR Policy Review Rationale

Focus on Student Well-being
- recognize the breadth of reasons for consideration
- identify issues and refer to support and resources
- treat students as adults and partners in their academic journeys

Prevent Misuse of health system
- obtaining health certificates to manage workload/exam schedule
- volume of health certificates is costly (OHIP; students; university)

Provide Clear and Effective Policies
- separate Academic Consideration from Academic Appeals policy
- distinguish clearly *consideration* from academic *accommodation*

2 Pilot Projects: No Health Certificates (FEAS) On-line Submission Health Certificates (TRSM)

- ACR with no Health Certificate required results showed no significant increase in the number of students requesting 1 or 2 considerations per year but an increase in the number submitting 3 or more ACRs

- On-line Health Certificate submissions revealed patterns that suggest use of health certificates is strongly correlated to academic challenges (timing of exams, students with lower CGPAs, students who drop courses, challenging courses)

ACR Policy Proposal

- Extenuating Circumstances: not differentiating for health, compassionate, other

- Documentation Required: final assessments; not first request; lasts > 3 days

- Documentation Not Required: 1x per term only through online ACR system

- Covers all obligations that are due within specified 3 day time period

- Must be requested within 3 days of absence

ACR Policy– System Supports and Resources

- Online System implemented

- Centralized make-up test scheduling and invigilation

- UDL Course design - build in flexibility for consideration in advance

Academic Policy Review Committee

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Thank-you
Questions and Comments