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**TO:** Senate  
**FROM:** Senator Hickman  
**SUBJECT:** Question regarding COVID Academic Planning and Policies  
**MEETING DATE:** October 19, 2022

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**PREAMBLE:** Follow up question on the work of Senate Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies (2021-2022).

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**QUESTION:** The work of the Senate Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies (2021-2022) provided welcome support to the university community, kept the McGill community apprised of COVID-related news, and established helpful frameworks for decision-making for units and instructors. In light of an ongoing, if reduced, need this season from students for COVID-related accommodations and from instructors for COVID-related guidance, in what forms will the work associated with such an advisory committee be carried out 2022-2023? In what forms will COVID-related support and guidance be provided to students and instructors?

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*\*Please refer to the [Guidelines for the Review of Questions and Motions by the Senate Steering Committee](#) for more information on this process.*

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*Response provided by. Angela Campbell, Co-Chair, Senate Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies 2021-2022, and Senator from the Faculty of Law.*

Thank you for your question, Senator Hickman.

The [Final Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies](#) was presented to Senate at the 11 May 2022 meeting, at which time this same question was raised. During the ensuing discussion it was explained that the Ad Hoc Committee could be reactivated should public health conditions require it. At present, conditions do not require such reactivation. The Committee was not intended to be a long-standing body, nor its activities recurrent. The Final Report of the Committee, the recommendations thereof being approved by Senate in May, was clear that co-existing with COVID meant integrating accommodation responses within McGill's existing policies and procedures (pp. 5-7). In particular, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Student Accessibility and Achievement (formerly Office for Students with Disabilities), Associate Deans responsible for student affairs in the Faculties, and representatives from student associations were asked to "develop a clear, learner-centred

protocol for students who seek accommodations reflective of the University's duty to provide reasonable accommodations on account of disability to the point of undue hardship." . The Dean of Students has recently initiated this process and the Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee has been tasked with reviewing all accommodations.

Likewise, it was recommended that the special processes put in place to address COVID-related needs of faculty and administrative and support staff be retired and that the University return to the general protocol for health- or disability-related accommodation of employees that first implemented in 2019, which the University has since done. The Report urged the establishment of a wide range of measures to facilitate fulsome participation in campus life in cases where a person's health situation requires accommodation. To that end, since early fall, various accommodations have been put in place for faculty and/staff COVID-related immunities and/or long COVID.