Extension on Returning to Campus – Students
January 18, 2022

To all FNUniv new and returning students.

The FNUniv Senior Management Team, along with the University of Regina and other federated colleges, are monitoring the ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19 and the current increased prevalence of the Omicron variant across the province. This notice outlines the recent announcement by the University of Regina to extend the pause to in-person learning and the approach that the FNUniv will utilize in the coming weeks.

The University of Regina recently updated all students with important dates on the phased return to in-person approach. As new and returning students, we understand that you want to have a complete university experience on campus – interacting with fellow students and your instructors and participating in on-campus activities. This gradual approach will lead us back to a “normal” university setting. Your patience, understanding and perseverance do not go unnoticed.

As was mentioned in the UofR notice, some labs and classes provide the best learning environments for face-to-face delivery. “Through this approach, some classes or laboratories where the best learning outcomes happen in-person can resume face-to-face instruction as early as February 7. Deans are working with instructors to make decisions related to course delivery which are expected to be firm by January 24. Your instructor has been asked to share any updates related to specific course delivery with you via UR Courses by the end of the day on January 24. These updates will also be posted on the Registrar’s Office website. This will enable you to consider the mode of course delivery and, if desired, drop the course by January 31 without academic or financial penalty.

The FNUniv Vice-President Academic and Associate Dean Academic will follow a similar process so that FNUniv students can expect a consistent approach for all their classes. We will be working with all FNUniv faculty and sessional instructors on any in-person class decisions for the January 24 deadline. FNUniv students will have the needed time to drop any courses that may go back to in-person on February 7.

Please check UR Courses regularly for updates from your instructors on course delivery for your specific course(s). Further updates will be shared by the end of day January 24, at which time you can decide to remain in the class based on the delivery method or drop the course. The revision to the Winter 2022 academic schedule reflects the extension to drop a course by January 31 without academic or financial penalty. All updates are on the website under Student Information for Winter 2022.

We see the importance of student, faculty and staff interaction through hosting on-campus events and activities. FNUniv will also allow for some in-person events and activities as of February 22. Keep in mind that this can change at any time, depending on the current situation.
The continuous regard for the health and safety of everyone is of utmost importance during this critical time. FNUniv will continue to monitor the situation, and a decision about the resumption of in-person course delivery for March 1 will be made as soon as possible. If your course is scheduled for remote, it will remain as such throughout the term. If you have questions, please discuss with your instructor.

As a University community, we must all do our part to keep each other, our children, Elders, and our families safe and healthy. All students, faculty, sessionals, and staff must adhere to the vaccination guidelines at all campus locations, including submitting your vaccination declaration and following the rapid antigen testing requirements, if directed. We strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated and book your booster shot, if eligible. With the uncertainty of the pandemic and increasing local numbers, the University may decide on a quick transition back to remote delivery, should we feel the safety of the University community be at risk.

Senior Management will provide further updates before February 7. Recently, the University has experienced a minimal number of cases across all campuses. If you have a case to report, please immediately contact the FNUniv Crisis Response Team and check the Saskatchewan COVID website for more information on self-monitoring, self-isolation, and self-testing.

We will get through this together. Our administration, faculty, staff and Elders see, hear, and empathize with you in the midst of your struggles. We are here to help in any way we can.

Take care of one another and your families. Be well, be safe and good health to you all.

Sincerely,

Senior Management Team