Remediation Options and Guiding Principles for Graduate Students

The Senate Executive Communication on Completion of Courses and Finalization of Grades on the York Secretariat website (http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/March-25-Completion-of-Courses-Update.pdf) WILL apply to Graduate courses and Programs EXCEPT for the following items:

1. **Assessed Grades Option**: The assessed grades process applies only to undergraduate courses, and does not apply to graduate courses. Where a student has an urgent need to finish a course in order to graduate in the winter term, and 70% or more of the work for that course has been completed, they should contact their Course Director to discuss reasonable options. If the Course Director is unavailable or suitable arrangements are not agreed upon, the student may bring the matter to the Graduate Program Director. In exceptional circumstances, where remediation cannot be achieved at the program level, a graduate student can bring their request to the Associate Dean, Student Affairs in FGS. The Faculty of Graduate Studies will continue to be bound by principles of quality and integrity in ensuring that all remediation measures uphold the standards of graduate education.

2. **Cushion period before assignments are due when classes resume**: For grad courses, the cushion period should be at least two weeks following the resumption of classes in order to allow students who are also working as TAs to complete grading and resume their coursework. FGS urges that flexibility and fairness to students guides decisions on cushion periods (including expedited grading for vulnerable students).

3. **Term length**: Reduction in term length for graduate courses will generally parallel the undergraduate dates as determined by Senate. However, Graduate Course Directors may come up with creative ways (including but not limited to the remediated meeting schedule) for students to complete the work in the course without compromising academic quality.

These provisions are NOT applicable to Grad in the first place:

1. **Examinations**: In Grad examinations are not set by the RO or FGS. Rescheduling and booking of exams, where applicable, will be handled by Course Instructors and Graduate Programs.

2. **Pass/Fail option**: While some graduate courses may be graded on a Pass/Fail basis, the “opt-in” option is not applicable to Grad.

3. **20 percent rule** (limit to worth of components in final 2 weeks of classes). This rule is not applicable to Grad.
Noteworthy provisions that WILL apply the same to Grad as Undergrad (for precise details refer to the Senate document):

1. Instructors may make changes in the kind, weight, and number of assignments.
2. The deadline to drop a course without receiving a grade will be the last day of classes (April 6 for classes that continue, the last day of the remediated schedule for those classes that are suspended).
3. All courses dropped since the beginning of the labour disruption (March 5) for the Full year term (Y) and Winter term will be automatically removed from transcripts.
4. Students who have chosen not to participate in active classes during the strike are entitled to complete the course after the disruption is over.
5. As always, students have an option to seek a deferral. Normal practices will be followed, but timelines will be adjusted according to TBD remediated term dates.

The following timelines will be adjusted by FGS, exact dates TBD at the conclusion of the labour disruption:

- Summer registration deadline (registration is now open and students are welcome to register as per usual. The late fee date is TBD but will be extended)
- Submission of academic petitions for Summer term (status, leaves, etc.)
- Incomplete grades and extensions
- Thesis and dissertation milestones (supervisory committee, etc.)

Note: convocation is a fixed external deadline that will constrain some flexibility around completion of degree requirements. We ask that Programs and Faculty members continue to be accommodating and adopt a student-centred approach, whether this entails postponing, maintaining or expediting certain components relevant to a student’s goals.

Decisions about these timelines are at the Program level rather than FGS; we recommend appropriate remediation and flexibility:

- Comprehensive and qualifying exams
- Program-specific guidelines and requirements

Degree Promotion and overlap:
For students who are moving from one graduate degree at York to another, FGS has a process which allows conditional, time-delimited commencement of the new degree while completing requirements of the former degree. For these students, programs should contact Student Affairs Manager Almey Tse Soriano (almey@yorku.ca).