

Student Advisory Meeting - January 2022

January General Updates:

- Today (January 31st) marks the first day for in-person classes for 1st year undergraduate students. All other levels would be returning back to campus on February 7th
- Faculty welcomes all students in meeting. During this meeting, the following faculty members were present:
 - Joanna Pierazzo (McMaster Site): pierazj@mcmaster.ca
 - Tracey Jewiss (McMaster Site, MUNSS Faculty Representative): jewiss@mcmaster.ca
 - Heather Cross (Conestoga Site): hcross@conestogac.on.ca
 - Karen Ball (Mohawk Site): karen.ball4@mohawkcollege.ca

Specific Question & Answer Period:

Q1: As a MUNSS representative, how do you approach the topic of in-person learning in a constructive & positive manner?

- J. Pierazzo: This topic can be an emotional and sensitive topic for many. There is a lot of concern regarding mental health wellbeing and the need for support across the student body especially for those who have been away for long periods of time. We hear that across all three sites and across all three cohorts.
- K.Cross: Never in history were nursing schools forced to shut down. This was probably due to access to Zoom which makes this possible. At Conestoga, the other schools have backed off returning to campus to allow nursing and healthscience students to continue. Therefore, it is important that we are able and it is certainly a celebration that we are back.
- K.Ball: We have a number of programs in nursing that are going to come back in person at different points and this depends on the college's messaging than the university. However, the aim of all nursing programs across the board is to be in-person.

Q2: Will the RPN-BSCN stream remain online?

- J.Pierazzo: the email sent to our program regarding this issue will be followed up shortly. However, it is important to note that every one of the programs, including PSW, PN, undergraduate medicine, PA, midwifery etc have returned back in-person.

Q3: When and to what capacity can we hold in-person events?

- J.Pierazzo: this is dependent on the MSU. As of right now, there are no events which are happening in person. Right now it is one step at a time. So I would look carefully at the public health rules and changes on campus. The process for confirming events has not changed and includes submission to the program manager.
- K.Ball: No changes were being made to the approach to the approach for in-person social events.

Q4: Is there going to be a hybrid option for the nursing program?

- J.Pierazzo: we will not be offering a hybrid option as we are approved for one mode of delivery only. If someone is ill, I would suggest exploring other options such as MSAF, missed academic work policies, speaking to the professor/TA, working with peers, study groups etc. are support options
- H.Cross: At Conestoga we have a variety of strategies in place to accommodate for students who fall sick like pre-pandemic times.

Q5: Are professors going to offer pre-recorded lectures similar to pre-pandemic times?

- J.Pierazzo: This would be dependent on the course and professor. I suggest reviewing the course outline of the sources you would like to take to see if this is an option. All sites have accessibility services to support students in academic need..
- H.Cross: Furthermore, if students require excess assistance they are encouraged to reach the student accessibility office to find suitable options for them and their circumstances.
- K.Ball: Lectures being delivered in person will not be providing recordings as classrooms are not set up with the technology to provide this option. If students have an accomodation to be able to access lecture recordings, they are responsible for bringing their own devices for personal use.

Q6: The majority of the students are extremely nervous about in-person learning. I was wondering would it be possible if we could connect with the Yellow Suits could arrange a campus tour and arrange other resources to ease this process (i.e. note-takers etc.)?

- Student: McMaster already offers the [SAS program](#) which offers students with the ability to access notes from notetakers who are hired by the SAS program. I think it would be beneficial to make students aware of the SAS program as the majority of their concerns can somehow be solved through this program as it provides students with accomodations for certain circumstances. Furthermore, the **L2 MUNSS Reps** are already organizing a Virtual Campus Tour
- J.Pierazzo: The program itself does not hire specific notetakers but accessibility services is important to consult.
- T. Jewiss: Today I taught in person for the first time and everyone seemed very receptive to being there. During class they were split into small groups and everything went well. In terms of the students, they really enjoyed it because it seemed they were really happy to be back there. Sometimes we just have to jump right in there - it's going to be an adjustment but we will get through it. Most second years have to attend in-person labs and clinicals therefore they are already familiar with campus somewhat. Therefore, providing reassuring words in terms of this being another step for students could be relayed to the student body.

Q7: Why are peer tutors cancelled for this semester? What other resources can we provide to students other than their professors and TAs?

- J.Pierazzo: The peer tutors program was not cancelled. It is currently on hold as our Clinical Instructor in McMaster's CSBL lab retired on January 1st. . We plan to bring it back but unfortunately it was not possible to do for this semester.. Peer study groups are great resources and do not have to paid. I encourage students to gather and support each other. For instance, the accelerated students have started their own mentorship program.
- Accelerated Stream Student: the accelerated stream students were able to start their own mentorship program and gain about 20 mentors. Some of the supports these students offer is study and skill support. We hope to host these sessions online so more people are able to attend. These sessions have to be approved by our academic leads to maintain credibility.