

ATTENTION FACULTY OF ARTS STUDENTS

The following guidelines are designed to assist faculty and students in the Faculty of Arts in implementing the Senate motion on academic rights and responsibilities in view of the strike situation at York. These guidelines were developed through consultation between the Dean's office, departmental chairs and the Executive Committee of the Faculty of Arts Council, and are designed to guarantee both the fair and equitable treatment of students, and the academic integrity of courses. If you have any questions or problems which arise from these guidelines or their interpretation, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, S930 Ross, 667-2205.

GUIDELINES ON ACADEMIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS AFFECTED BY THE YUSA AND/OR CUEW STRIKE(S)

At its meeting of October 3, 1984, Senate approved a motion providing that "no administrative academic sanctions in any form will be brought against any student, regardless of status, should she or he decide to honour the CUEW and/or YUSA picket lines and not attend classes. It is understood that makeup classes need not be given to students who do not cross picket lines."

The following guidelines and examples, which are meant to be suggestive rather than prescriptive and exhaustive, may be of help in interpreting and applying this resolution in the Faculty of Arts so as to ensure both fairness to students and the academic integrity of courses:

I. Students who miss classes or fail to hand in work because of their refusal to cross picket lines are not subject to administrative academic penalties for lateness or absence. Since it is assumed that students will not be favoured or discriminated against as a result of their decision to cross or not to cross picket lines, they should feel free to explain to their instructor at the first opportunity their reasons for missing class or failing to hand in work, and should arrive at an understanding with their instructor on the procedures to be followed.

Example 1: If an instructor allots a certain number of marks to class participation, and a student misses class due to refusal to cross the picket line, the absence does not result in a "0" for class participation. Rather, the class participation marks for the year should be redistributed equally over the classes not missed for this reason, and the new arrangement should be confirmed in writing.

Example 2: A paper handed in late because a student did not cross the picket line will not be penalized for lateness if it is handed in at the first reasonable opportunity after the strike is settled. Under certain circumstances, it may be appropriate to allow the student extra time to use library and other resources and/or to consult with the instructor before submitting work.

Example 3: If a student misses a test due to refusal to cross the picket line, the instructor is obligated to arrange a make-up test or distribute the course grade over the remaining assignments in the course (as in Example 1 above). Students who wrote the first test should be permitted to write the make-up test *in lieu of* the first.

II. The protection from administrative academic penalties explained in I. above provides, with few exceptions, only an extension of a deadline; it does not alter the academic requirements in the course, and does not relieve the student of responsibility for mastering course work covered during a strike. An instructor should make a list of such work available to students who did not attend during a strike, and may hold extra sessions on a voluntary, unpaid basis for the benefit of such students; or provide them with class notes or readings.

Example: A test given after the end of a strike contains questions on material covered during the strike. A student who has refused to cross the picket line is not exempted from answering such questions and will be marked in the same way as other students. Instructors should

allow students a reasonable period of time to acquaint themselves with work missed, particularly where assignments were made during the strike.

III. The guidelines listed under **I.** and **II.** above apply to students who for reasons of conscience have decided not to cross picket lines. **In cases where students, through no fault of their own, were prevented from attending class or from conforming with course requirements, alternative arrangements must be made which recognize the dual principles of fairness to students and the academic integrity of courses.** Such arrangements might take the form of rescheduling of assignments, reorganization of course work, or redistribution of the marks, and should be confirmed in writing.

Example 1: During a strike, students were not able to use resources normally available to them and which they otherwise would have used (for example: the library, the Writing Workshop, a laboratory), and this affected their ability to complete essays or prepare for oral reports or tests. It may be appropriate to allow students extra time, or to take the inaccessibility of these resources into consideration when marking, or to redefine the requirements for the course.

Example 2: In a multi-section course, some instructors did not meet their groups during a strike. Students in these sections cannot be held accountable for course work not made available to them. If the instructors determine that a common examination should be held for all sections, material which would discriminate against students whose classes did not meet during a strike may not be included. Instructors may wish to consider preparing different examinations for groups affected in different ways. This principle holds for multi-section courses which use the lecture/tutorial format as well as for those which meet solely in parallel sections.

Example 3: During a strike, an instructor did not meet his/her class at the officially scheduled time and place, but invited students to meet elsewhere and/or at a different time. Students who did not attend such sessions may not be penalized for absence or held accountable for material covered at that time. Assignments made at such sessions must be brought to the attention of students at a regular meeting of the class, and must provide for adequate preparation time.

IV. These guidelines, which assume that the effects of a strike or strikes are not so grave as to force annulment of a course, may not cover all cases, and are not intended to limit the steps which faculty members may take in ensuring that their students are treated fairly and equitably; even where they are directly applicable, goodwill, flexibility and common sense will be demanded of faculty members and students in making the best of a difficult situation. Instructors and students should discuss the procedures applicable to their courses with a view towards finding a solution adequate to particular situations. Where this kind of discussion does not lead to a satisfactory solution, questions, suggestions, and complaints may be directed to the Office of the Dean, S930 Ross, 667-2205.