

December 11, 2020

Dear Vice-President MacLean and Vice-President Hauf;

I am writing to express our concerns about processes of decision-making and consultation relating to the recent decision to offer grade relief options to students. Our members understand the circumstances that exist for students and appreciate their apprehensions and the need for flexibility and support. They also understand the delegation of Senate authority to the COVID-19 Steering Committee and the fact that the Steering Committee obtains advice from the Academic Subcommittee. However, our members believe that the need for regulation could have been foreseen sooner, and could have used a more collegial process, even at this late date. Faculty have been working hard to provide solutions to exactly these problems. Many of our members have expressed concerns that these last-minute changes without adequate time for broader consultation obviate some of their efforts. It is important for the academic collegium to contemplate consequences that may not have received full consideration, such as intersections between this policy and the SOS implementation. We will be sharing these concerns with our members and encouraging them to engage their senators and deans around processes relating to decision-making and consultation.

Regards,



Sue Blair

President, AUNBT