



# Memorandum

Enrolment Services  
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**TO:** Senate

**FROM:** Ms. Gillian Nycum, Registrar and Executive Director, Enrolment Services

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Revisions to Calendar of Academic Dates for 2020-2021

**DATE:** December 2, 2020

**DOCUMENT #:** D20-23

**ACTION REQUIRED:**  INFORMATION  APPROVAL/DECISION

**ISSUE** This motion would adjust the Academic Calendar for Winter 2021 for all Faculties except the Faculties of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Dentistry. The adjustments would apply to the start and end of classes, and the Examination period. The dates for Reading Week would remain unchanged and the term would not extend beyond 30 April 2021.

**BACKGROUND & RATIONALE** There is significant interest among many in the McGill community (students, faculty, and staff) regarding the many changes brought about by the pandemic, but also because the current schedule has a shorter than normal break between final exams from the Fall 2020 term (which ends on 22 December) and the currently scheduled start of the Winter 2021 term (4 January). This impacts students, faculty, and staff, as the latter must also find time to prepare their courses for the Winter 2021 term and course preparation must begin on 4 January, and some of

these programs already start in May.

It is also clear that having our academic term extended into May 2021 for all Faculties is problematic since many students may be starting summer internships, and the Summer 2021 term must begin on 4 January, and some of

delaying the start date of classes.

The Fall 2020 term resulted in 25% fewer final examinations being scheduled as compared to 2019, and it is reasonable to assume that there will be a trend towards fewer final examinations for Winter 2021. Therefore, the proposal is to reduce the final examination period to gain one additional makeup day in the schedule; therefore it is proposed the final examination period will be 10 days in length instead of 11. It is also proposed that the final examination be extended until Friday 30 April instead of the current schedule which ends on Thursday 29 April; this would make up the second day in the schedule. The makeup day can be achieved by the removal of the 'study day', which is normally a single day or a weekend between the last day of classes and the start of the Final Examination Period. Given that the new proposal for the Final Examination Period would involve a start date for Final Examinations on Monday 19 April, there would be a weekend as study days between the end of the term and the start of the Final Examination Period.

With this proposal, the Add/Drop deadline would move from Tuesday, January 19 to Friday, January 22. The Withdrawal with Refund deadline would move from Tuesday, January 26