

# Memo

Niagara Region  
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To: All course instructors

Copies to: Shannon Kitchings, President, Brock Graduate Students' Association

From: Thomas Dunk, Interim Provost and Vice-President, Academic

Date: October 24, 2016

Subject: Student Accommodations for National Day of Action November 2, 2016

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I have received a letter from Shannon Kitchings, President, Brock Graduate Students' Association dated October 21st requesting that the University provide academic accommodation to those students who wish to participate in a National Day of Action scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, 2016. This request follows a presentation to the Senate meeting of October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 by the National Graduate Caucus Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students.

The National Day of Action has several objectives including persuading the provincial government to increase per-student funding.

Specifically, the GSA has requested that course instructors:

- Refrain from penalizing a student's attendance or participation marks, and
- Refrain from holding tests, assignments or exams on November 2, or allow students to make arrangements if they miss tests, assignments, or exams, and
- Provide reasonable access to materials covered on November 2, and
- Provide opportunities to students to make up missed labs or practicum placements that take place on November 2.

The decision to grant accommodation to students for their participation in the Day of Action remains with individual course instructors and I acknowledge that compelling academic considerations may make accommodation impossible. However, I ask that all course instructors do so *where possible*. Funding for students is a concern for everyone in the post-secondary education sector.

If instructors have an academic activity such as a test, presentation, or mid-term exam scheduled for November 2, 2016, I ask that they raise the potential conflict with their students at the earliest opportunity.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Dunk".