

Examining Examinations & Student Experience

OURA 2017

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Manager Examinations & Special Projects

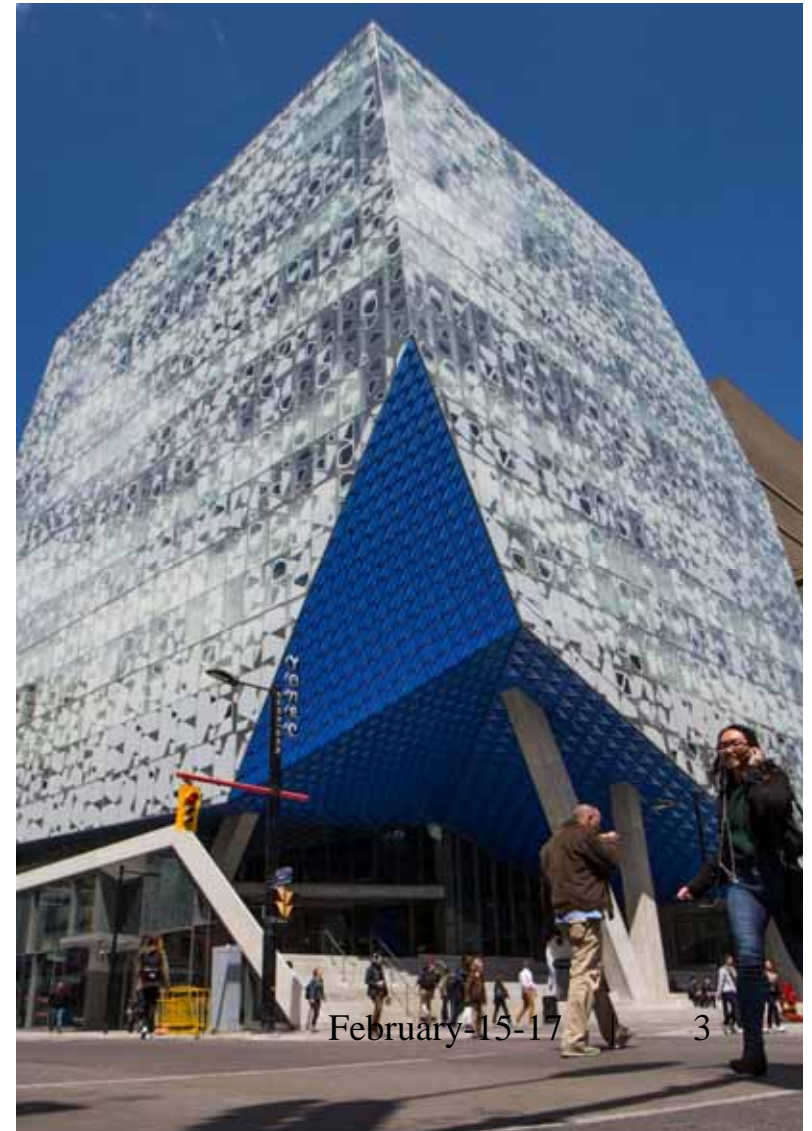
Goal

To improve student mental well-being through exam procedures and supports

- Learn about changes at Ryerson and how we created buy-in
- Review results of environmental scan of exam procedures
- Share your exam initiatives and challenges

Snapshot of Ryerson

- 43,000 students
- 33,800 undergraduates
- 7,700 first years
- 100+ undergraduate and graduate programs
- Downtown Toronto
- Commuter school



Snapshot of Exams

- Total number of exams across campus:
111,500
- Registrar-administered in large venues:
50,000
- 3 large venues of approx. 550



History of Exams

- 10 years at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC)
- 30 minutes off campus
- No amenities or supports nearby
- 2000 students per exam
- “Security bag” program



I get anxious as soon as I walk into the MTCC

I look at my coat and bag as much as my exam

Get rid of 8 am, Saturday and evening exams

I can keep my valuables under my desk – why can't I keep my whole bag?

How come students can wear religious headwear but I can't wear a hat?

“Exam anxiety top concern for students at policy review”

Ryersonian student paper, Sept 28, 2016

**“Ontario campus
counsellors say
they’re drowning in
mental health
needs.”**

(“Lives at stake,” 2016)

How are students cheating?



Monorean®

Cheat on tests with absolute discretion!

The best wireless and invisible earpiece for cheating on tests: wireless communication without being caught.

Finally, you need to cheat on tests

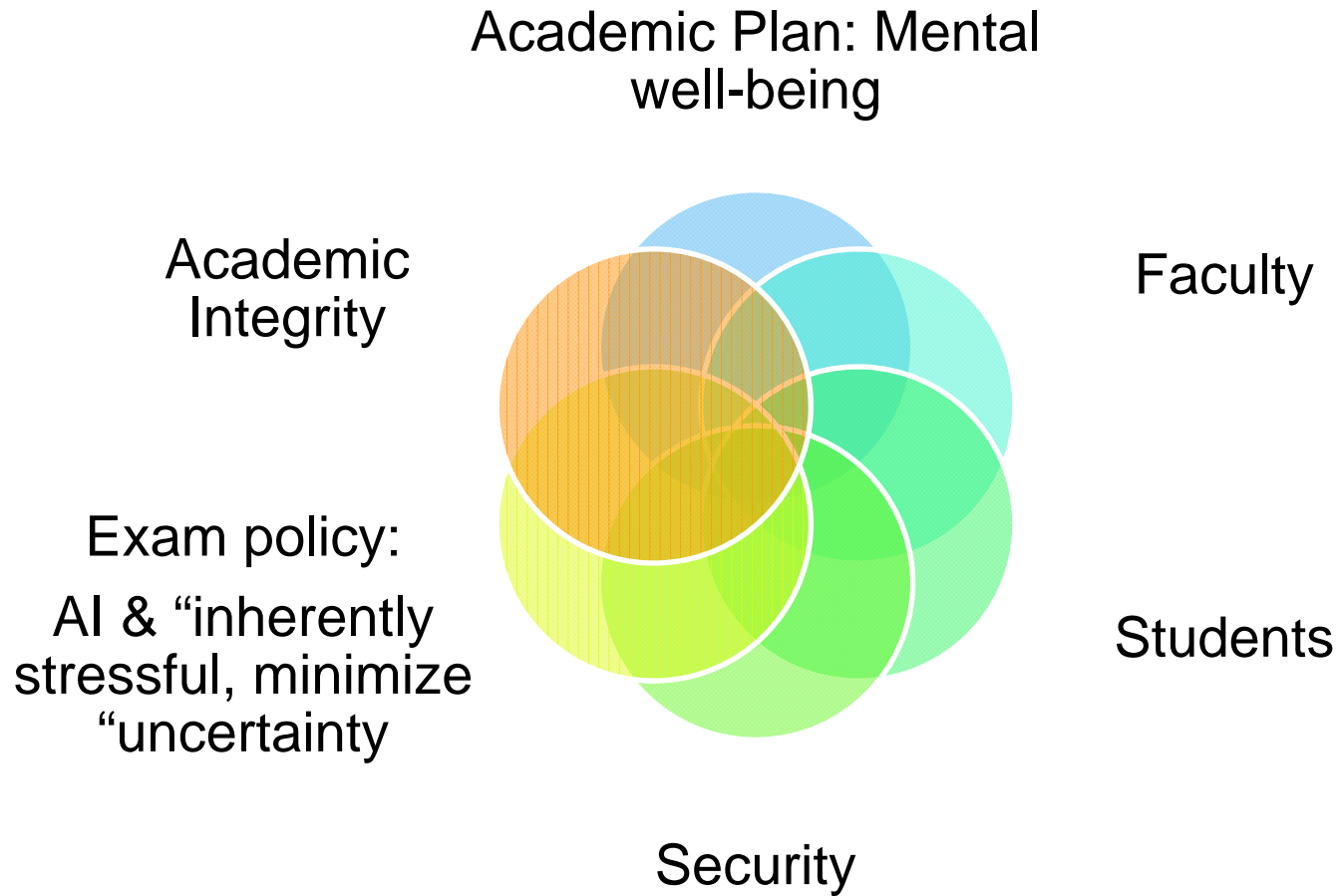
The advertisement features a close-up of a finger with a tiny, circular earpiece embedded in the skin. The Monorean logo, a stylized 'M' with three dots, is visible on the finger. The background is a light blue gradient.



*Only available with Monorean CAM

**Cut down on stress
and you will cut
down on cheating.**

Balancing interests



Environmental Scan

External review

- 12 university exam websites
- 36 survey responses from Registrars across Canada
- Interviews with University of Toronto Faculty of Arts & Science, McMaster University
- Interviews with governing bodies: Law Society and Professional Engineers Ontario

Internal Stakeholders

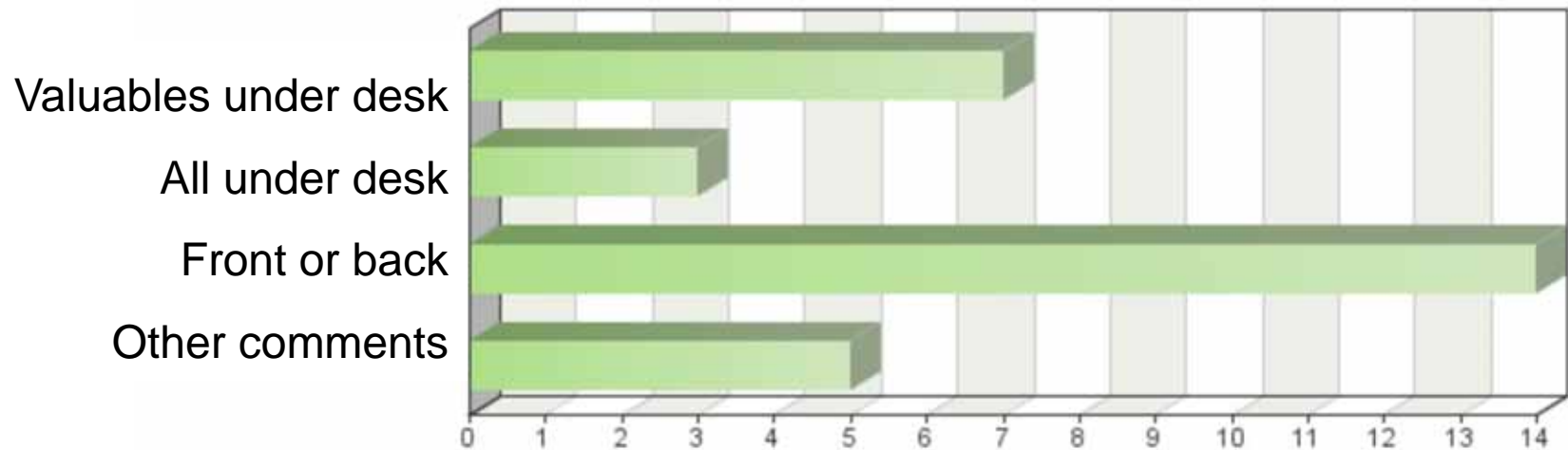
- Student Affairs, Health Promotion, Academic Accommodations Test Centre
- Mental Health Coordinator, Accessibility
- Scheduling, Security, Information Security Officer, Compliance and Policy Management (Privacy)

Move exams back on campus

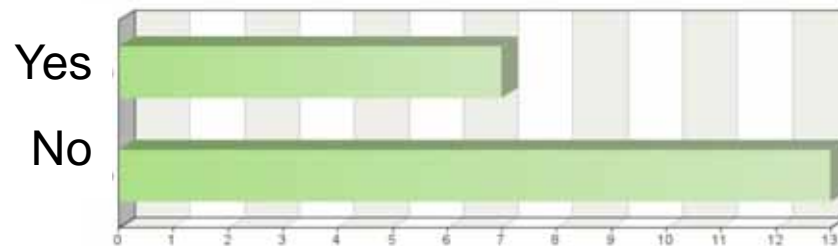
- Reduced costs
- Max venue size: 600
- Control over venue
- Able to offer supports



Where do students put their belongings?



Coat at desk?



Other Comments

- Ziplock bags for valuables
- Don't bring valuables
- Coat check
- Security cameras
- Portable lockers too expensive
- Don't use front and back of room due to safety issues
- Up to instructor – provide faculty training
- University of Toronto Arts and Science changed to keeping belongings, no issues

Stakeholder advisory groups

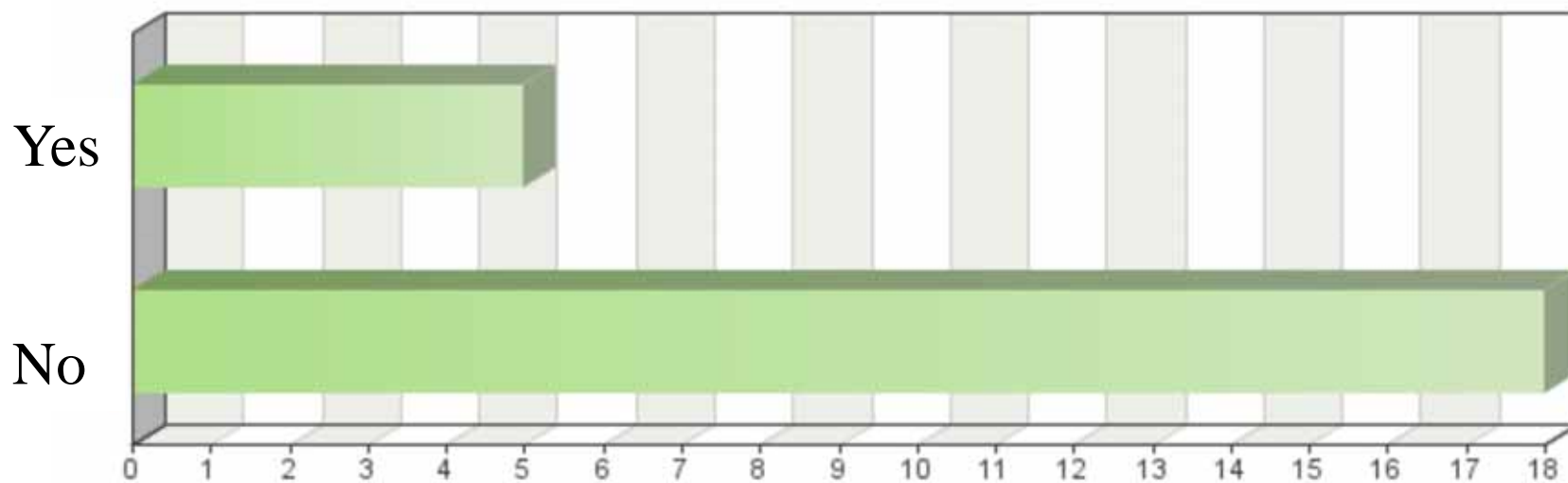
Academic Integrity

- Academic Integrity Office
- Secretary of Senate
- Board Secretariat Legal Counsel
- Academic Accommodations Test Centre
- Learning and Teaching Office

Invigilators

- CUPE3 union steward
- volunteers

Have you banned watches?



Finding the balance with academic integrity

A



B



C





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3c3Tbraf0hM>

Academic integrity initiatives - structural

- Venue used at 50% capacity
- Assigned seating
- Multiple versions and “striping”
- Exam books with serial numbers
- Alternate format:
 - Part A one hour no breaks, 30 min break, Part B one hour no breaks

Academic integrity initiatives - procedural

- Training for faculty and invigilators, especially around tech
- Required academic honesty workshop beginning of each term
- Photo ID checked at large exams – scan to reduce fakes
- Minimized what's allowed on desks
- Exams handed out once students are seated
- Washrooms swept

Presentations

- Provost and Vice President Academic, Vice Provosts Students, Faculty Affairs, Academic Chairs, Deans and Directors
- Faculty through Learning and Teaching Office

Changes at Ryerson

View Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baQObucpakM>

EXAMS AT THE MAC

#RyersonExams



Remember to bring your student card!



WHERE AM I GOING?

MAC (Mattamy Athletics Centre)
50 Carlton St
15 min. walk from the Student Learning Centre, or 5 min. from College subway

KHW (Kerr Hall West)
379 Victoria St
KHW271: Enter from the quad up the double diamond staircase
KHW073: Enter from northwest corner of quad, go down the stairs



ON YOUR DESK

- ▶ Student card, pen and pencil
- ▶ See-through water bottle with no label
- ▶ Any aids your instructor has allowed, i.e. a calculator



PUT AWAY

- ▶ Bags, cell phones, and watch under your desk
- ▶ Oversize items at the side
- ▶ Coats on the back of your chair or at the side
- ▶ Hat on your head, subject to inspection and discretion



GOT SOME TIME BETWEEN EXAMS?

- ▶ Student Support room 3rd floor at the MAC
- ▶ Waiting areas or quiet room at the MAC
- ▶ Student Learning Centre (341 Yonge St)

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require accommodations to write your exam, contact the team at Academic Accommodation Support at sis@ryerson.ca or 416-598-5978.



Poster

Announcement

Desk

1

ON YOUR DESK

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How can we make exams ~~fun~~? less stressful



YOU GOT THIS

CAN'T FOCUS?

FEELING OVERWHELMED?

HAVING WRITERS BLOCK?

DOUBTING YOURSELF?

STARTING TO PANIC?

STOP!

Close your eyes.

Take a breathe in...hold it for 5 seconds...breathe out for 5 seconds.

Repeat 10 times.

Take a moment to collect your thoughts.

Open your eyes and REMEMBER - YOU'VE GOT THIS!

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

In a panic?

Not quite sure how to answer a question on your exam?

Tempted to glance over to your peer's shoulder?

STOP!

INSTEAD...

Close your eyes.

Take a moment to collect your thoughts.

Take a breathe in...hold it for 5 seconds...breathe out for 5 seconds. Repeat 5 times.

NOTHING IS WORTH RISKING YOUR ACADEMIC STANDING

**Ryerson
University**

**Academic
Integrity
Office**

Stay honest, don't cheat. For more information on Academic Integrity, visit:

<http://www.ryerson.ca/academicintegrity/>

Other Wellness Ideas

- Guitar players!
- Activities: giant puzzles & colouring posted on the wall
- Snacks
- Intensive course-specific study sessions
- Activities through student learning and counselling
- Wellness Centre workshops on anxiety & stress offered to students who defer for those reasons

- Others?

Training Invigilators and Professors

- Handbook
- In-person
- Future online training

- Exam procedures
- What to do if they find cheating
- Mental health component
- Emergency procedures

Challenges

- Invigilator hiring: group interview
- Invigilator scheduling
- Invigilating distance exams
- Cheating with electronics:
 - Policy: “having ready access to”
 - Pocket check as part of announcements
 - Invigilator & professor training
- Supervision in washrooms





Professors said:

100% Keep privacy dividers

76% No concern with belongings at desk

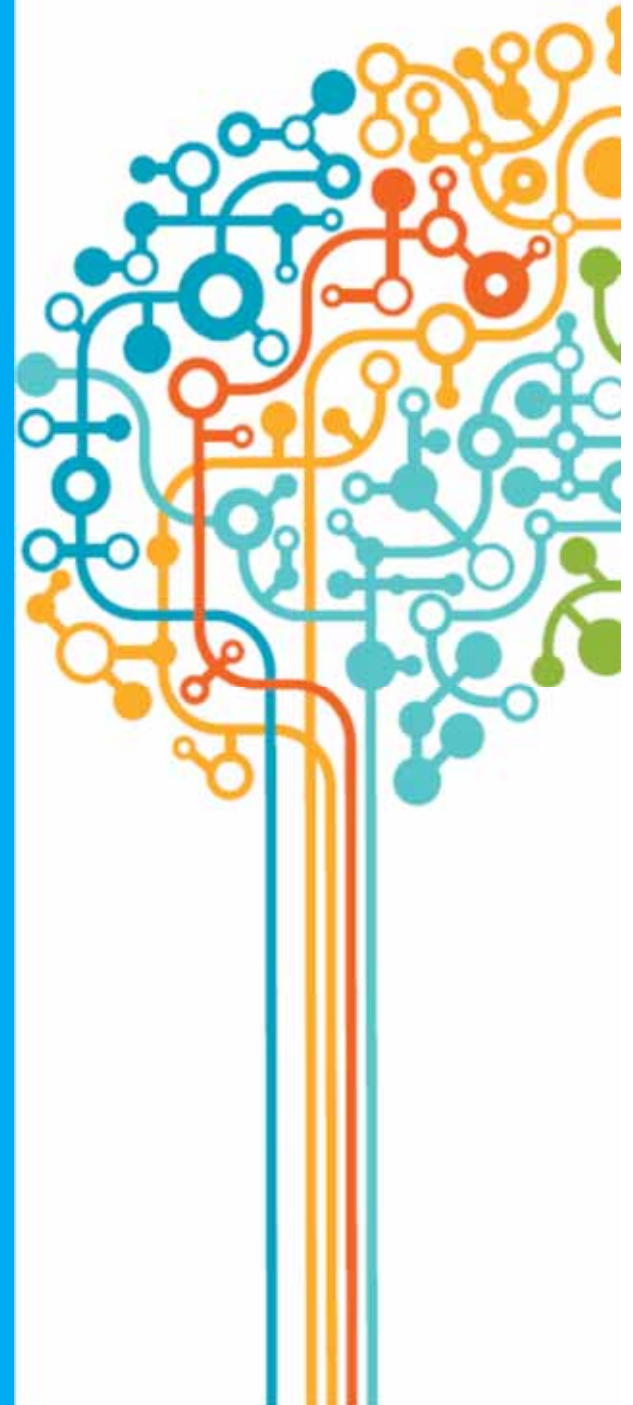
Initially, I was concerned about their personal belongings at their desks. However, there was sufficient space for them to write and for us to invigilate. Now I have no concerns with this practice at the MAC location.

“New exam policy, less stress”

Ryersonian journalism student paper,
Oct 18, 2016

Ombudsperson Report

“The University’s decision to interpret the Exam policy such that students will no longer be required to place their large personal items at the room is a major step forward with respect to reducing student stress while writing exams.”



The new exam procedures are awesome!

I can focus on my exam, not my stuff

I'm so glad exams are on campus!



(Hugs)

Thefts = 0



New Goals

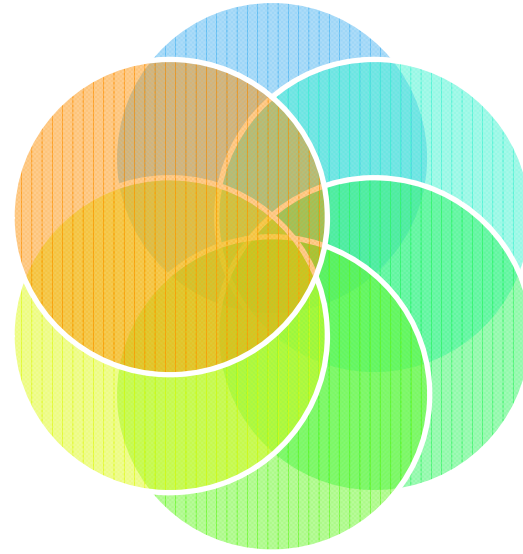
reduce the number of To ~~eliminate~~ exams

- Promote alternate assessment
 - Learning and Teaching office & Curriculum Development consultant
 - Theme of Learning and Teaching Enhancement Fund
 - Teaching Chairs
 - Mental Health Committee: promoting flexible practices in the classrooms

Turn invigilation into leadership development

Provide university-wide solutions

Other thoughts or questions?



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Exam anxiety top concern for students at policy review. (2016, September 28). Retrieved February 8, 2017, from <http://ryersonian.ca/exam-anxiety-top-concern-for-students-at-policy-review/>

“Lives at stake”: campus counsellors say province must address mental health “crisis.” (n.d.). Retrieved February 8, 2017, from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/mental-health-ontario-campus-crisis-1.3771682>