Dear Honours Thesis Students in PNB 4D09, 4D06, and 4DD6:

The university has taken many steps to prepare and keep our community informed as the COVID-19 pandemic has unfolded. As you’re aware, one of these measures was the decision late last week to suspend in-person classes for the remainder of the academic term.

**McMaster in-person classes and tests for undergraduate and graduate students ended as of Friday March 13th and no in-person exams will be held at the end of this term.**

This decision was made to ensure that our activities here at McMaster are aligned with the social distancing principle so important to broader public health at this time.

We are also committed to ensuring the successful completion of the current academic term by all of our students. To do so, we have put careful thought into the use of alternative assessment methods and evaluation schemes that are fair to all students. The following describes what you can expect for the Honours Thesis courses (PNB 4D09, 4DD6, 4D06) between now and the end of the term:

Between now and April 7, the following changes have been made with respect to course activities:

- Regretfully, we have cancelled the thesis poster session scheduled for March 31st, 2020.
- Please consult with your supervisor to determine whether the poster session will be replaced with another thesis communication activity (e.g., a virtual presentation of your research using an online method). This aspect of thesis activity is now left to the supervisor's discretion.

In addition, we have made the following change to the assessment scheme used for this course:

- The 10% of the course grade that had been allocated to the poster session for 4D09 students (and 4D06/4DD6 students who elected to present a poster) has now been added to the 80% to be determined by supervisors, in accord with the expectation agreement completed at the beginning of the course.
- The final evaluation will therefore consist of the midterm evaluation (10%) and the final evaluation (90%) for all students in all three thesis courses. Whether the additional 10% now added to the supervisor’s final evaluation is used for an additional activity (e.g., a virtual presentation of your research using an online method), or simply distributed across other thesis activities, is left to the supervisor's discretion.

If you have a need for accommodations, please continue to communicate with Student Accessibility Services and keep your supervisor informed. In the event of significant changes to the COVID-19 situation, further changes may need to be made and will be clearly communicated to you. Please also visit [https://covid19.mcmaster.ca/](https://covid19.mcmaster.ca/) for up-to-date university information.

Sincerely,

Bruce Milliken
Chair – Dept. of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour