

**Memo: Please Consider Recording Lectures During the Pandemic to Better Support Student Learning**

**From: SSB-Office of Curriculum Innovation & Teaching Excellence**

**To: All Faculty**

**CC: All Staff**

**Re: Please Consider Recording Lectures During the Pandemic to Better Support Student Learning**

**Date: Tuesday, May 04, 2021**

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*To: All Faculty*

*Cc: All Staff*

Dear Instructors,

As we enter year two of the pandemic, it's worth reconsidering how we can remove barriers to student success. To this end we are encouraging Schulich instructors to record and post their synchronous class lectures onto their Canvas course(s).

Given the added challenges introduced by the pandemic, it may be difficult for students to attend all scheduled synchronous classes (i.e., weekly class sessions held over Zoom) for extended periods of time. Our students experience many of the same challenges faced by faculty and staff, balancing responsibilities of both their academic and home environments. We encourage instructors to remain mindful and considerate of the fact that students may not have an ideal learning environment at home. Challenges include being in different **time zones** than instructors and peers, navigating **technology issues** (i.e., access to reliable internet, software, hardware), and **environmental challenges** (i.e., an inability to dedicate a quiet space for long time periods). Providing students with recorded lectures can mitigate these issues and provide a further **study aid**, allowing students to review concepts covered in class to gain a better understanding of the course materials. This is a common request seen in our recent student feedback. Students are still expected to attend all scheduled classes whenever able. However, they should not be penalized for an unintentional interruption or absence under such unique circumstances.

An easy way to do this is to [automatically copy recorded Zoom lectures into your course\(s\)](#) using Echo360. There are no storage limitations in Echo360, and students cannot download videos. Echo360 also offers a variety of features to increase student

engagement with video content. While watching videos, students can participate in discussions, answer activity questions, and flag confusing lecture segments. Echo360 also offers detailed analytics so instructors can [review student engagement](#), including the number of video views, responses to activity questions, and areas of confusion where students indicated having trouble. Taken together, these features can bring back some of the dynamism lost to video lectures and allow instructors to quickly identify content areas that require further discussion.

If you're interested in learning more about Echo360, the CITE Office have [prepared guides](#) and will be hosting [training sessions](#) on how to use Echo360 on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

We hope this email has provided some clarity around the student need for accessible lecture recordings in the remote learning environment, along with added benefits for instructors. If you have any further questions, please contact the CITE office at [cite@schulich.yorku.ca](mailto:cite@schulich.yorku.ca).

Regards,

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