Make Special Circumstances More Accessible

What will we do?
1. Lobby the university to review their special circumstances processes to be more accessible and less punitive for students that are already struggling.
2. Lobby to adjust the current system so that students with pre-existing conditions known to the University do not have the burden of proving worsening condition.
3. Lobby the university to provide students with the results of their application before deadlines and exams to prevent heightening of any stress and agitation.

What is the background to this?
1. Students applying for special circumstances are already going through extremely difficult times. At present, the university’s policy towards special circumstances appears to be more of an obstacle than an aid to students getting the help and understanding needed.
2. Many students are deterred from asking for the help needed in fear of dealing with the current system.
3. There is a need for the University to take a comprehensive and holistic view on the care of students.

What beliefs motivate the actions you propose?
1. Special circumstances are an essential part of the infrastructure that exists to support students experiencing exceptional difficulties.
2. The current system places unreasonable demands on students with pre-existing and deteriorating mental and physical health issues.
3. Extended periods of uncertainty regarding special circumstances applications cause unnecessary distress among students applying for it.
4. The university should work to support students to the greatest extent possible.

Submitted with 20 student signatures