ADDENDUM TO AGENDA

VIII  REPORTS OF OTHER COMMITTEES OF SENATE, FACULTY AND SCHOOL COUNCILS

9. Report of the College Executive Council of the College of Pharmacy RE: Revised Admission Requirements for the Pharm.D. Program, for the Fall 2020 and Fall 2021 Intakes

**Click here to access the BlueJeans audio call and follow instructions provided in the emailed notice of meeting.**
Memorandum

April 27, 2020

TO: Dr. Todd Mondor, Deputy Provost (Academic Planning and Programs)

FROM: Dr. Lalitha Raman-Wilms, Dean, College of Pharmacy, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences

SUBJECT: COVID-Related Changes to the Fall 2020 and 2021 intake Admissions Criteria

The College of Pharmacy is submitting the attached proposal on COVID-Related Changes to the Fall 2020 and 2021 intake Admissions Criteria for consideration by Senate Executive.

This proposal was approved by the Pharmacy College Council Executive this morning (April 27th, 2020).

Please let me know if you have any questions, or require further information.

Thank you.
Proposal from the College of Pharmacy, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences to Senate Executive for COVID-Related Changes to the Fall 2020 intake Admissions Criteria

Background Information
Applications for admission to the College of Pharmacy for Fall 2020 have decreased significantly in comparison with previous years. The application process for Pharmacy is typically highly competitive.

It is unclear why applications have decreased significantly this year, although it is reasonable to assume that issues related to the emergence of the current public health crisis related to COVID-19 have been a factor. Recent changes to the admission eligibility requirements (including the introduction of the standardized PCAT (Pharmacy College Admissions Test) requirement), the increased duration of the new Pharm.D. program, and increased tuition costs have also played a contributing role. As well, we are now informed that the PCAT assessment (typically scheduled in January, April, and July) was cancelled in April due to COVID-19 related concerns, further impacting the potential pool of applicants. Notwithstanding our specific and unique circumstances, other Canadian schools of Pharmacy with more mature Pharm.D. programs have also seen a decline in applications for 2020. We also anticipate that COVID-19 could impact on the academic performance of students applying to our program for Fall 2021 intake.

The consequences of this shortfall, particularly given the current state of uncertainty surrounding the long term consequences of COVID-19, could have significant public health implications for the province. The situation is further exacerbated by lack of a program intake in Fall 2019, and no graduating students in 2022 (both as part of the transition plan from the B.Sc.(Pharm.) to the Pharm.D.).

In response to COVID-19 related concerns the Senate Executive Committee has already approved, on behalf of Senate, temporary revisions to the College’s admission process for the Fall 2020 intake into the Pharm.D. program. These include the following

- Adjusted Grade Point Average (AGPA) weighed at 66 percent (changed from 60 percent) of the overall score
- Pharmacy College Admission Test PCAT® weighed at 34 percent (changed from 30 percent) of the overall score

These adjustments were introduced as the requirement for a critical skills assessment (essay), weighted at 10 percent of the overall score, was suspended this year to comply with COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. The College of Pharmacy is now requesting further consideration by Senate to help ameliorate the unique and very difficult situation in which we find ourselves, that if not addressed, will significantly impact on the availability of pharmacists in Manitoba over the next several years.

Additional Requested Changes:
The College of Pharmacy is now requesting that the Senate consider and approve the following additional temporary changes to the approved eligibility criteria (see attached) for the Fall 2020 and the Fall 2021 intake. These changes, listed below, would apply in a stepwise approach, to consideration of all applicants as deemed fair and appropriate.
Requested Modifications for the Fall 2020 intake

1. Required Courses

Current Requirement
Applicants must complete 60 credit hours of required courses as listed in the table below (core courses and elective courses) with no grade less than a “C” by April of the year of application. All 60 credit hours must be university degree level course work completed at the 1000 level or higher. No credit will be given for any course which was completed more than 10 years before the year of application. For the Fall 2020 intake, this means any course taken before September 2010 will not be considered in the admissions process.

Requested Modification
To minimize the potential negative impact of COVID-19 related disruption on applicants’ performance, the College requests that the requirement for with no grade less than a “C” by April of the year of application be changed to ‘with no more than a single grade of less than a “C”, but no lower than a “D”’. Further, that where pass/fail assessment has been accepted and may be the only grade available, that pass/fail be accepted to meet subject requirement.

2. Requirements for Fall/Winter sessions

Current Requirement
Applicants must complete a minimum of 2 Regular Fall/Winter sessions (Sept-April) where each Regular Fall/Winter session contains a minimum of 24 new credit hours of university level degree-credit courses, with no grade less than a “C”.

Requested Modification
To minimize the potential negative impact of COVID-19 related disruption on applicants’ performance, the College requests that the requirement for no grade less than a “C” be changed to ‘with no more than a single grade of less than a “C”, but no lower than a “D”’, and the ‘W’ requirement be suspended for applications from students attending academic institutions external to the University of Manitoba be suspended.

3. Minimum Adjusted Grade Point Average (AGPA)

Current Requirement
Applicants must achieve an AGPA of 3.50 or higher (see Section 4: Selection Process, B. Calculation of the Adjusted Grade Point Average (AGPA) in the attached Applicant Information Bulletin 2020--2021).

Requested Modification
To minimize the potential negative impact of COVID-19 related disruption on applicants’ performance in the 2020 Winter term, the College requests that the minimum acceptable AGPA be reduced to 3.0.

4. Critical Skills Essay
Current requirement
Applicants must achieve the minimum required score in the Critical Skills Essay (see Section 4: Selection Process, C. Critical Skills Essay).

Requested Modification
No further modification, the Critical Skills Essay (originally scheduled for April 27, 2020) has already been suspended for the Fall 2020 competition.

5. Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT®)

Current requirement
The PCAT® assesses overall academic knowledge and scientific aptitude. Applicants must achieve the minimum required PCAT®. (see Section 4: Selection Process, D. Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT®)) The PCAT® must be completed no earlier than January 15, 2017 and no later than January 17, 2020.

Requested Modification
No modification.

Requested Modifications for the Fall 2021 intake
As it is anticipated that the impact of COVID-19 will continue into Fall 2020, with many universities making a decision to continue with on-line instruction and examinations, we propose that the above modifications remain in place for the Fall 2021 admission intake, with the following additions:

• That Pharmacy reinstates the critical skills essay for 2021
• That the full time (24 credit hour) academic year requirement be suspended for 2021

We will continue with the PCAT requirement for 2021, pending that the assessment will be offered. The ability of students to take this assessment may be impacted if social distancing continues to be a concern in Fall 2020, at which point this will need to be revisited.
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IX ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

1. Proposal from Enrolment Services to Allow Senior Level Grade 12 Courses and Graduation Certificate in Assessment for Admission of Direct Entry Applicants from Nigeria and Ghana

**Click [here](#) to access the BlueJeans audio call and follow instructions provided in the emailed notice of meeting.**
A proposal from Enrolment Services to allow Senior Level Grade 12 courses and graduation certificate to be used in the assessment for admission for direct entry applicants from Nigeria and Ghana.

Section I – Description of the change

The current eligibility requirements for applicants from Nigeria and Ghana is completion of Senior School Certificate issued by West African Examinations Council (WAEC/WASSCE).

In addition to graduating with the certificate, students must also meet minimum course and eligibility requirements outlined in the Applicant Information Bulletin. This assessment is based on course examination results (WAEC/WASSCE).

With the COVID-19 outbreak worldwide, administration of the WAEC and WASSCE examinations has now been indefinitely postponed. This will result in applicants from these regions no longer be eligible for consideration based on our current admission requirements as they cannot complete the examinations.

After reviewing other post-secondary institutions in Canada, due to the indefinite postponement of the national exams, schools seem to be doing a number of different things to accommodate students from these countries. Most schools in Canada are making an accommodation and are not requiring the WAEC/WASSCE examinations.

We are proposing under the circumstances that we assess students from Nigeria and Ghana for the Fall 2020, Winter 2021, and Summer 2021 terms based on mock exam results if available and Grade 12 school grades with graduation certificate. This assessment would be used for students entering University 1 only. Students wishing to pursue more competitive programs will need to use examination results and potentially wait for future intake terms.

Section II – Recommendation

That we assess applicants from Nigeria and Ghana using mock examination results if available and Senior level grade 12 courses for fulfilling admission eligibility criteria for admission to University 1 for the Fall 2020, Winter 2021, and Summer 2021 intakes.