Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Executive Committee held on the above date at 1:30 p.m., remotely via BlueJeans

Those present:

Dr. D. Barnard, Chair
Prof. J. Anderson
Prof. R. Biscontri
Prof. P. Blunden
Prof. T. Chen
Prof. M. Gabbert
Dean E. Jurkowski
Prof. C. Miller
Ms. T. Nagra
Prof. D. Oliver
Dr. J. Ristock
Prof. A. Schultz
Dean J. Taylor
Ms. L. Zapshala-Kelln
Mr. J. Leclerc, University Secretary
Dr. S. Coyston, Associate University Secretary

Assessors present:

Ms. S. Bonner-Proulx
Ms. N. Lam
Ms. J. Minarik
Dr. T. Mondor
Prof. M. Shaw
Prof. D. Watt

Regrets:

None

Absent:

None

Also present:

Mr. J. Adams, Executive Director, Enrolment Services
Dr. D. Collins, Professor, College of Pharmacy
Ms. P. Gareau, Awards Establishment Coordinator, Financial Aid and Awards
Dr. D. Hiebert-Murphy, Vice-Provost (Academic Affairs)
Dr. D. Jayas, Vice-President (Research and International)
Prof. B. Li, Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Science
Dean L. Raman-Wilms, College of Pharmacy
Ms. L. Schnarr, Vice-Provost (Students)
Prof. G. Smith, Associate Dean (Graduate Studies, Curriculum, Space, and International Studies), Faculty of Arts
Dr. M. Torchia, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)
Ms. M. Watson, Executive Assistant to the University Secretary

President Barnard recognized that the University community had questions about the province’s request that postsecondary institutions provide proposals to reduce wages and cut non-essential spending for a four-month period, from May to August 2020. The University had complied with that request and dialogue with the province was ongoing. President Barnard said he and other senior administrators had reinforced to the province that the University was willing to do its part with the COVID-19 relief effort, which was evident in individuals’ willingness to volunteer in screening activities and to participate in the important research work being carried out. President Barnard said the University was not closed; Winter Term courses and the final examination period, with approximately 70,000 examinations, had been completed remotely.
The University did not plan to close. Planning for the Summer Term, which would be delivered entirely by remote means was well underway, and planning to also offer the Fall Term by remote means had begun. The effort was not something that had been done before and it involved a tremendous amount of work by faculty members and support staff. President Barnard said the work of the University is meaningful and important, especially considering the centrality of its role to the province’s social and economic well-being.

President Barnard said the University had not been given a timeline for receiving the province’s response to the University’s submission. He recognized that waiting for information added to what was already a stressful time for members of the University community. He committed to sharing more information when it became available. Information would also be communicated through Deans and Directors to faculty and staff.

President Barnard said the Premier’s announcement earlier in the day had not addressed postsecondary institutions. It had included some welcome news on the first phase of easing restrictions that people had been living with for six weeks. President Barnard expressed his hope that the first phase of reopening would be safe and successful, to allow for subsequent phases to continue. He expressed his gratitude for the efforts of members of the Senate Executive Committee and the University community, to support the teaching, research, learning, and outreach activities of the University. He remarked that it was a difficult time that the University would come through together.

Referring to the agenda, President Barnard thanked the committee and all those who had contributed to the development of items of business, for their participation in navigating the uncharted waters of the pandemic, and for the dedication of many at the University to working through the challenges it presented.

IV 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

The Chair recalled that on March 16, 2020, Senate delegated its approval authority to the Senate Executive Committee for academic matters arising during the emergency period. The Pandemic Planning Committee had established an Academic Advisory Sub-Committee chaired by Deputy Provost Mondor. The Chair invited Dr. Mondor to speak to a Report from the College Executive Council of the College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Mondor said the Academic Advisory Sub-Committee had reviewed, and was in favour of, the proposal from the College. He invited Dean Raman-Willms to speak to the proposal.

Dean Raman-Willms said proposed modifications to the admission requirements for the Doctor of Pharmacy program, for the Fall 2020 and Fall 2021 intakes, related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the academic performance of potential applicants to the program, given changes that had occurred in teaching and learning at the University of Manitoba and at other universities.
Dean Raman-Willms briefly reviewed the admission requirements for the program, which included 60 credit hours of required courses, at least two years of full-time study (24 credit hours) with no grade less than a "C", a minimum Adjusted Grade Point Average of 3.5, and minimum required scores on the Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT) and a critical skills essay that was normally written at the Bannatyne Campus. She recalled that Senate Executive (April 1, 2020) had recently approved, on behalf of Senate, a change to suspend the last requirement for the Fall 2020 intake, given the need to comply with social distancing restrictions.

Dean Raman-Willms said the College was requesting that, for the Fall 2020 intake, the minimum required Adjusted Grade Point Average be lowered to 3.0 and the requirement for at least two years of full-time study, with no grade less than “C,” be amended to allow for a single grade less than a “C” but no lower than a “D.” The latter requirement would also be revised to allow pass/fail grades to be accepted to meet the subject requirement, as some applicants might apply from institutions where there was not option for a letter-grade at this time. The College was also proposing that the requirement for a written English course be suspended for applicants from other institutions.

Dean Raman-Willms said the College was requesting that the same changes remain in place for the Fall 2021 intake, with the exceptions that the requirement for the Critical Skills Essay would be reinstated and the requirement for at least two years of full-time (24 credit hours) of study be suspended due to the impact of COVID-19 this year.

Professor Oliver MOVED, seconded by Ms. Nagra, THAT the Senate Executive Committee approve, on behalf of Senate, the Report of the College Executive Council of the College of Pharmacy concerning revised admission requirements for the Doctor of Pharmacy Program; specifically:

- For the Fall 2020 and Fall 2021 intakes:
  - A requirement for 60 credit hours of core and elective courses, with no grade less than a “C” by April of the year of application, be amended to allow no more than a single grade of less than a “C,” but no lower than a “D;” and, further, that where pass/fail assessment has been accepted and may be the only grade available that pass/fail be accepted to meet the subject requirement;
  - A requirement for a minimum of two Regular Fall/Winter sessions (September – 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,” be amended to allow for no more than a single grade of less than a “C,” but no lower than a “D,” and the ‘W’ requirement be suspended for applicants from other academic institutions;
  - A requirement for a minimum Adjusted Grade Point Average of 3.5 be amended to a minimum Adjusted Grade Point Average of 3.0.

- For the Fall 2021 intake:
  - A requirement for a Critical Skills Essay be reinstated;
The full time (24 credit hour) academic year requirement be suspended for 2021.

CARRIED

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

The Chair referred the committee to an addendum to the agenda that had been circulated the previous day.

Dr. Mondor invited Mr. Adams to speak to the proposal. Mr. Adams said Enrolment Services was proposing that, for the Fall 2021, Winter 2021, and Summer 2021 intakes, applicants who had completed high school in Nigeria and Ghana be assessed for Direct Entry admission to University 1 based on their Senior level grade 12 grades and mock examination results for the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) examinations, if available. The change was necessary, as the WAEC examinations had been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants would be considered for admission to University 1 only and would not be eligible to apply to any Direct Entry program. Those seeking entry to another program would be eligible to apply in future based on their completion of University 1, so the proposal would not disadvantage or delay students.

Ms. Nagra MOVED, seconded by Professor Chen, THAT the Senate Executive Committee approve, on behalf of Senate, a proposal from Enrolment Services that the University of Manitoba 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.

CARRIED