



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: January 5, 2005 for January 12, 2005

AGENDA ITEM: 10 (j)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

School of Graduate Studies: Proposal of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences for a Flexible-Time Ph.D. Program Option, for inclusion in the School of Graduate Studies calendar on a permanent basis, effective September 2005.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee receives for information flex-time options for PhD studies approved by SGS Council.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Graduate Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences requests approval to offer, under special circumstances, a flexible-time Ph.D. program option to students who have completed a master's program or bachelor's degree in the pharmaceutical sciences or in a discipline relevant to the pharmaceutical sciences. This program is intended for professionals whose employment is closely related to their proposed area of research. Professionals would be defined broadly and would include those practicing the profession of pharmacy and also those holding positions as pharmaceutical scientists in industry, government or academia.

The proposal was approved by the Faculty of Pharmacy Graduate Faculty and by the Council of the School of Graduate Studies (November 23, 2004).

This program will benefit mature, career-minded individuals who are unable to undertake full-time studies due to professional obligations. The admission of the students and the requirements of the Ph.D. degree will follow the Guidelines of SGS approved by SGS Council in May 1995. The only difference between the flexible-time Ph.D. program option and the full-time program is the flexible delivery of the program, which allows students (a) to take longer and more flexible timeframe to completion and (b) to remain employed for more time than that anticipated for full-time students (e.g. 10 hours per week) while completing the program.

The rationale for the benefits of the flex-time Ph.D. are outlined in the summary. The program would nurture the emergence of leaders in pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences by augmenting their credentials as experienced professionals with the education and training needed to be successful as research scientists in order to push forward the frontiers of the profession and related sciences.

There is also an urgent need to provide an avenue for investigators in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences to create new opportunities for pharmacists and other health care practitioners to pursue a Ph.D. program on a flex-time basis. This is especially evident in association with the recent expansion at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, which has resulted in growth in both student enrolment and in the hiring of tenure-stream research faculty.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the flex-time PhD option.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.