



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Edith Hillan
CONTACT INFO: edith.hillan@utoronto.ca

DATE: April 24, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy: Proposed changes to the Baccalaureate of Science in Pharmacy (BScPhm) Curriculum and Admission Requirements

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee has authority to approve changes to curriculum within established programs that can be accomplished with existing resources and are not major, including changes in professional degree requirements.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

Originally developed in 1994, the current BScPhm undergraduate pharmacy program enrolls 240 pharmacy students annually. The Faculty offers a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program that is a post-graduate degree. A new curriculum is proposed for the BScPhm that embraces the Faculty's goal of bringing expanded knowledge, skills and experience to students who aspire to become the needed Pharmacy professionals of tomorrow.

Over the last three years, the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy has had ongoing discussions about curriculum renewal. Although minor curricular changes within the program have continued to occur, the Faculty considers that the program now requires significant changes to its structure and delivery in order to prepare graduates to effectively provide pharmaceutical care within the current context of health care delivery in hospital and community settings.

The rationale for the proposed changes in admission requirement and curriculum changes are included in the attached proposal. Significant changes in the proposed curriculum relate to both the content and delivery of the program. The revisions to the curriculum itself and a comparison between the current and proposed program are outlined in Appendix VI of the proposal. Students entering the program will require additional pre-requisite courses in Physical Chemistry, Biochemistry, Organic Chemistry and Statistics. These courses are currently taught in years 1 and 2 of the program. The Faculty has determined that with the

significant changes proposed, the current curricular structure will no longer be feasible and will require these additional pre-requisite courses for entry into the four year program. In fact, the Faculty has determined that approximately 75% of students applying to the program already have already taken these courses.

The proposed curriculum will have significantly more experiential training, providing students time to develop their clinical skills and thus increasing their confidence. This is critical given the mandate of Primary Health Care Reform within Ontario and the need for pharmacists to take on leadership roles and to work more effectively within health care teams. The renewed curriculum will result in the ability of the Faculty to greatly enhance the student experience and will help foster strong connections the University with the broader community of pharmacy and health professionals.

The Faculty further recommends that the entry-to-practice degree for the undergraduate professional pharmacy program be changed from the baccalaureate BScPhm to the Doctor of Pharmacy PharmD degree.

The renewed BScPhm curriculum surpasses or is equivalent to the PharmD programs in Canada (Montreal and Laval), the United States and Europe. As of 2000, the PharmD degree is the entry-to-practice degree in every school of pharmacy in the United States. As noted in the proposal, congruency with current pharmacy degree programs in the United States and Quebec will help to clarify training requirements with colleagues in these locations and provide improved access to advanced specialty residency and fellowship opportunities in the USA. At present, U of T graduates completing a BScPhm degree do not have the opportunity to enter directly into such programs since those now require a PharmD degree for admission.

Currently, both programs are accredited by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP). The revised curriculum for the BScPhm has been designed to meet the outcomes for entry-level Doctor of Pharmacy programs. Pending approval of an entry-to-practice degree recognition by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the Faculty would proceed with consultation with external organizations to implement the change. The Faculty is in the process of consultation with the Ministry.

The 2004 Provostial external review report of the Faculty highlighted the need for curricular changes to the existing program and supported that the entry-to-practice degree for Pharmacy should be the PharmD rather than the BScPhm:

“While it may be tempting to delay or defer this question, the issue has critical importance to pharmacy students with respect to emerging practice roles for pharmacists, access to specialty residency training and fellowship opportunities in the US, and the leadership position of the U of T to influence education policy change. Alignment and collaboration with the universities in the other provinces will also need attention so that common educational standards for professional licensure in Canada (and to the US) are maintained.”

and

“Given the fact that pharmacy graduates are already well beyond usual B.Sc. credit requirements and that the international standard of entry-level pharmacy

practice is rapidly becoming the Doctor of Pharmacy, it seems that the strategic objective the Faculty has decided upon is the correct path.”

The proposed admission requirement and curriculum changes have been discussed in the Faculty over the past two years via working groups representing faculty members, students, recent graduates and practitioners. The Faculty has consulted broadly with representatives from other University Divisions including the Deans of the Dentistry, Medicine, Lawrence Nursing, Physical Education and Health, Social Work, the Director of the Division of Anatomy in the Department of Surgery, and the Chairs of the Department of Chemistry, Physiology. All are in support of the revised admission requirements and curriculum. The proposal was approved by the Leslie Dan Faculty Council on April 17, 2008.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

The Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy has committed to provide all the resources needed for the program. There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the revised curriculum. The Faculty will continue its current program enrolment of 240 students in each year. The revised curriculum, which is proposed for implementation in September 2010, will see its first graduates entering the profession in June 2014. The Faculty plans to communicate its revised curriculum to potential students as soon as the proposal is approved by governance.

Upon approval of an entry-to-practice degree recognition by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the Faculty would bring forward to University governance for approval a change in degree designation of the BScPhm and to a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree to reflect the proposed renewed BScPhm curriculum. The BScPhm degree would be disestablished at that time.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approves:

THAT the proposed Baccalaureate of Science in Pharmacy (BScPhm) curriculum and admission requirements, hereto attached, be approved, effective September 1, 2010,

and

THAT the proposal to change the entry-to-practice degree for the undergraduate professional pharmacy program from the baccalaureate (BScPhm) to the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree with the revised curriculum and admission requirements, be approved in principal.