

# UC 10749 09F

TO: Lawrence Williams, Chair  
Undergraduate Council

FROM: Richard Scamell  
Degree Programs Committee: Programs

SUBJECT: UC 10740 09F: The Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences Program

DATE: December 9, 2009

APPROVED DEC 09 2009  
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The Committee met on Wednesday, December 2 to review a proposal to phase out the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences Program in its current form. Participating in the consideration of this proposal were Betty Barr, Miranda Bennett, Debbie Hermann, Iain Morrison and Richard Scamell. Lamar Pritchard attended the meeting as a guest.

The Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences Program was established in the Fall 2008 semester to provide undergraduate students with educational experiences and training in the pharmaceutical sciences (e.g., medicinal chemistry, pharmaceuticals, pharmacology, toxicology, and pharmacokinetics). Its main objective was to establish another degree pathway for pre-pharmacy students at UH. Students apply for admission to the program after completing their freshman and sophomore years. UC 10740 09F is a proposal to (a) effective with the Spring 2010 semester discontinue accepting students into the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences Program and (b) continue the current program through the Summer 2012 semester in order to provide the 57 students (juniors and seniors) currently enrolled in the program ample opportunity to graduate.

Through the end of the Fall 2009 semester, no students have graduated from the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences Program. While it was expected that graduates from the program would be positioned to enter the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries in areas such as drug discovery, pharmaceutical formulations, clinical manufacturing and process improvement, medical devices, pharmacokinetics and metabolism, and regulatory affairs, job opportunities have not yet materialized. During the 18 month life of the program, less than 100 students have applied for admission into the program. To date, all eligible applicants have been accepted.

It is important to note that while UC 10740 09F proposes to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences Program it does not propose to discontinue awarding the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree itself since another part of UC 10740 09F is to consider the possibility at a later date of awarding the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree to students completing the second professional year of the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.) professional degree. This would help increase the University's six-year federal graduation rate as well as award students with a Bachelor of Science degree should they not progress beyond the second professional year in the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.) program.

Each year the College of Pharmacy receives 700 to 800 applications from qualified applicants for the 120 positions in each Pharm. D. class. The majority of the students accepted into the program come from the state of Texas with approximately 27 percent (i.e., 30 per year) coming from the University of Houston Pre-Pharmacy Program. Thus awarding these students a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree will increase the University of Houston Federal Graduation by one percent. The Committee noted that the 73 percent of students in the Pharm D. Program who transfer to the University of Houston from other Colleges and Universities in Texas and in other states must satisfy the University of Houston core curriculum requirements in order to be awarded a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree.

With the discontinuation of the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences Program, the College of Pharmacy will offer only graduate and professional degree programs: (a) Master of Science, (b) Ph.D. in Pharmacy Administration, (c) Pharm. D. professional degree, (d) Ph.D. in Pharmacology or Pharmaceuticals, (e) a combined Pharm D./Ph.D. in Pharmacology or Pharmaceuticals, and (f) a combined Pharm. D./Master of Science. Future plans involving the College of Pharmacy include the possible creation of a multidisciplinary health sciences degree program, to be housed in the College of Technology, which would include course offerings from the Colleges of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Business, Pharmacy, and Technology.

The Committee recommends approval of UC 10740 09F.