

GFC Executive Committee – For the meeting of October 15, 2018

2019-2020 Academic Schedule

Faculty of Pharmacy request to be excluded from Fall Term Reading Week:

Prepared by Dr. Dion Brocks, Associate Dean Undergraduate Student Affairs (Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)

The Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences offers a professional undergraduate PharmD degree. This is the entry-to-practice degree to practice pharmacy offered in most provinces in Canada. We have just admitted our first class to the entry to practice PharmD program this summer. The degree program is an accredited program with an approved curriculum by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP). This approval includes the number of hours of instruction in the curriculum.

Our PharmD program has new courses that each fit into a 3 ucw (39 hours per course) designed curriculum. When the Fall Reading week was implemented in 2016 our Faculty's understanding was that it would not affect the total number of hours allocated to courses. This year it was realized that the number of hours allocated to courses in the Fall term by the Office of the Registrar was not 39 hours of instructional time for a 3 ucw course, but rather lower by up to 3 hours per course. Our accredited program requires that we maintain 39 hours per course. With 5 courses per term over 4 years this could mean a reduction in the total number of instructional hours of up to 45 hours.

One semester size does not fit all especially for professional programs and the current scheduling changes necessitated by the Fall reading week does not suit our mandated program needs and indeed places our professional accreditation at risk. Our consultation with our student body has overwhelmingly supported this initiative. Other health care professional faculties including Rehabilitation Medicine and Medicine/Dentistry have been recused from Fall reading week already. Like our other health care faculties, the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is requesting that Fall Reading week be removed from the schedule for our PharmD program commencing the 2019-2020 academic year. This will allow us to offer our program as designed and approved by CCAPP.