

Vancouver Senate Admissions Committee

MINUTES OF 24 NOVEMBER 2021

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Via zoom

Attendance: Prof. Carol Jaeger, Joint Faculties Representative, Faculty of Applied Science (Chair)
Dr. Ian Cavers, Associate Dean, Faculty of Science
Dr. Joanne Fox, Faculty of Science – Joint Faculties Representative
Mr. Brendan Morey, Assistant Dean, Student Administration & Awards, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Dr. Laura Moss, Associate Dean, Students, Faculty of Arts
Dr. Kate Ross, Associate Vice-President and Registrar, Enrolment Services
Mr. Sam Saini, Associate Registrar, Undergraduate Admissions and Student Recruitment & Advising, Enrolment Services
Dr. Shahin Shirzad, Assistant Dean, Admissions, Faculty of Medicine
Keanna Yu, Student Senator
Ms. Angela Zhao, Convocation Senator

Regrets: Dawson Born, Faculty of Medicine – Student Senator
Dr. Peter Choi, Joint Faculties Representative, Faculty of Medicine (Vice-Chair)
Dr. Joey Hoegg, Associate Professor, Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration
Dr. Sandra Jarvis-Selinger, Associate Dean, Academic, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Dr. Steven Pelech, Faculty of Medicine Representative
Dr. Ingrid Price, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Representative
Dr. Pam Ratner, Vice-Provost and AVP Enrolment and Academic Facilities
Dr. Zhaoming Xu, Associate Dean, Academic, Faculty of Land and Food Systems

Guest: Dr. Joseph Anthony, Associate Dean, Health Professions, Faculty of Medicine
Dr. Susan Forwell, Professor and Department Head, Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, Faculty of Medicine

Secretariat: Aman Breen and Bradley Menard

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Approved by consent.

ITEM 3: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 13 OCTOBER 2021

The Chair called for a motion as follows:

<i>I. Cavers B. Morey</i>	}	<i>That the Minutes of 13 October 2021 be approved, as circulated.</i>
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Approved

ITEM 4: BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 13 OCTOBER 2021

None.

ITEM 5: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT – UBC AND UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA (UNBC) re. MASTER OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY – NORTHERN (“MOT-N”) PROGRAM (approval)

The Chair invited J. Anthony and S. Forwell to present the memorandum of agreement between UBC and UNBC for administration of the Master of Occupational Therapy Northern Program. The Ministries of Health and Advanced Education & Skills Training have provided funding to develop the UBC Faculty of Medicine Master of Occupational Therapy Northern Program (MOT-N), a distributed academic program of the UBC MOT program.

There is a long-standing shortage of occupational therapists throughout the province arising from multiple factors, including the increasing demand for physical therapy services by an aging population, an aging workforce and the long-standing insufficient number of training seats. The MOT-N will better meet the needs of northern and rural residents. The Northern Program will increase recruitment and retention of occupational therapists in underserved areas of B.C. The program will operate out of the UNBC facilities to allow MOT-N students to complete their academic education and the majority of their clinical education in northern and rural communities. The Faculty of Medicine’s Northern Medical Program and Master of Physical Therapy Northern program also operate out of UNBC.

The Committee expressed support for the proposal. In response to a question whether different selection criteria would be used for students applying to the MOT-N, J. Anthony confirmed that students must meet all regular admission requirements and write an additional essay stating their interest in the MOT-N program. It was noted that the Doctor of Medicine (MD) program has a Northern cohort and the data from the MD program suggests that the biggest predictor of someone staying and practicing in Northern and rural areas is whether they are from a Northern or rural community.

The Chair called for a motion as follows:

<i>B. Morey</i> <i>K. Yu</i>	}	<i>That the Committee approve and recommend to Senate for approval the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement between the University of British Columbia and the University of Northern British Columbia regarding the UBC Faculty of Medicine Master of Occupational Therapy-Northern (“MOT-N”) Program.</i>
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Approved

ITEM 6: DOCTOR OF MEDICINE BLACK STUDENT ADMISSIONS STREAM (approval)

The Chair invited S. Shirzad to present the proposal for a new admission stream for the Doctor of Medicine program. The new MD Black Student Admission Stream seeks to address the long-standing underrepresentation of Black students in the MD Undergraduate Program and Black physicians in British Columbia.

The Faculty will create a Black Student MD Admissions Pathway Subcommittee to support the pathway, with membership that represent stakeholders in Black medical student education across the province and will be chaired by the Assistant Dean, MD Admissions. Applicants must meet all admission requirements. Additionally, applicants will be required to self-identify as Black in the application and write a personal statement or essay highlighting why they have chosen to apply through this application stream. The essay will be reviewed by the Black Student MD Admissions Pathway Subcommittee and applicants must receive Subcommittee support to move forward in the admissions process. The pathway will be reviewed by the Subcommittee two years after implementation. While a specific number of seats will not be set aside, the aim is to

In response to a question whether more information should be provided to applicants in the Calendar entry, S. Shirzad responded that the MD admissions process is complicated and it would be cumbersome to include all of the details in the Calendar. Applicants generally refer to the program website. In response to a question on how the Faculty will authenticate whether an applicant is Black, S. Shirzad stated that following discussion and consultation with stakeholders, who were predominantly Black, the recommendation is that the personal statement/essay is sufficient as the evaluators and advisory group have sufficient experience and expertise to be able to authenticate the self-identification.

Committee members noted that Indigenous Stream applicants are required to submit an essay while students applying via this new stream as to submit a personal statement, and recommended consistent language for both streams.

S. Shirzad stated that the MD program does not reserve any number of seats for student applying via the Indigenous Stream but aims have at least 5% of the class be Indigenous students, which reflects the baseline Indigenous population in BC. No seats will be reserved for Black students but the hope is that the new stream will result in more Black students applying to the MD program. The reason that there are so few Black students currently in the program is that very few apply. As the Faculty currently does not have disaggregated data on the racial makeup of the applicant group though it will begin collecting this data into the coming months. This data will help identify barriers to application for Black students. There is currently demographic survey work underway for collection of student data University wide to ensure there is a consistent data standard across the institution.

The Chair noted that while the general selection process does not consider factors such as age, ancestry, colour, gender identity etc., the new stream considers race as a factor in the admission process and asked how these differences are reconciled. S. Shirzad responded that the Faculty consulted legal counsel on whether the Calendar language should be revised. The Human Rights Code does allow for distinctions to be made to protected grounds, such as special programming that provides an enhanced level of service or accommodation for traditionally disadvantaged groups. These types of special programs are supported by the Human Rights Commission, and are similar to employment equity initiatives.

The Committee was very supportive of the proposal. Following discussion, the Calendar entry was revised to read as follows:

6. Essay by Canadian Indigenous (Status Indians, Non-Status Indians, Métis, or Inuit) candidates who are applying to the Indigenous Stream; or essay by candidates self-identifying as **Black who are applying to the Black Student MD Admissions Stream.**

Black Student MD Admissions Stream

The Faculty of Medicine welcomes applications from qualified applicants who self-identify as Black. Black applicants can apply either to the general admission stream or through the Black Student MD Admissions Stream. Applicants who self-identify as Black will be considered under the Black student admission process as well as under the general admission process.

If you wish to apply to the Black Student MD Admissions Stream, you will be required to self-identify as Black and write an essay which will be reviewed by the Black Student MD Admissions Stream Subcommittee. Applicants supported through this stream will have Black evaluators participate in the assessment of their application. Please email the MD Admissions Office for further information

The Chair called for a motion as follows:

<i>I. Cavers K. Yu</i>	} <i>That the Committee approve and recommend to Senate for approval the Black Student MD Admissions stream for applicants to the Doctor of Medicine program, effective for entry to the 2022 Winter Session and thereafter.</i>
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Approved

ITEM 7: SUSPENSION OF ADMISSION – VANTAGE ONE ARTS (approval)

The Chair invited J. Fox to present a proposal to suspend admission to the Vantage One Arts program. Vantage One Arts enrolment targets have been shifted into the Faculty of Arts. Starting in 2021, admissions to the Vantage One Arts program will be suspended.

The Vantage One programs, offered by Vantage College are specially-designed pathways for academically outstanding international students, who do not yet meet the English language admission requirements for direct Faculty entry. In the past five years, the Vantage One Arts program has enrolled 760 students, who will graduate with their Bachelor of Arts degrees from over 100+ different programs in the Faculty of Arts.

International student demand for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts is greater than ever, with the Bachelor of Arts program at UBC having seen yearly growth in its prospective international student applicant pool. Given the greater demand by international students directly to Arts, the Faculty of Arts has decided to gradually decrease enrolment in the Vantage One Arts program over the next three years.

The Chair called for a motion as follows:

<i>S. Shirzad J. Fox</i>	} <i>That the Committee approve and recommend to Senate for approval suspension of admission to the Vantage College Arts One program, effective for the 2022 Winter Session and thereafter.</i>
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Approved

ITEM 8: DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING – PART-TIME DESIGNATION (approval)

The Chair presented the School of Nursing proposal to have the option of part-time classification for PhD students. The program attracts students who are in various stages

of life, career, and professional employment and who hold leadership positions within our health care system. Some are already in faculty positions at other institutions. Some applicants would like to continue in their current position, and are needed by the health care system; others have personal circumstances that make it impossible for them to devote full-time attention to their program of study. Additionally, a part-time PhD program could enable those students to undertake a research project in their professional setting. Creating a part-time option is aligned with the School of Nursing's strategic planning to increase enrollment of PhD students in Nursing.

In response to a question of why students cannot switch back and forth between part-time and full-time classification, B. Morey stated that the proposed change is consistent with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies regulation for part-time designation. There are different fee schedules for full- and part-time students and different timelines for advancement to candidacy which essentially prevent a change between the classifications. In response to whether students have ever requested to change, it confirmed that there are only about 12 part-time doctoral students and none have requested to switch.

The Chair called for a motion as follows:

<p>B. Morey K. Yu</p>	}	<p><i>That the Committee approve and recommend to Senate for approval Part-time Doctoral Classification for applicants to the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing, effective for the 2022 Winter Session and thereafter.</i></p>
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Approved

ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS
None.

ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on 8 December 2021.

ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

ITEM 12: CATEGORY 2 CHANGES (circulated for email approval)

The following proposals were approved by email:

- a. Bachelor of Applied Science Post: Admission from a Post-Secondary Institution – Exemptions for Applied Science
- b. Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Science in Medical Genetics – Admission Requirements
- c. Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Studies – Admission Requirements