September 2, 2014

TO: Ilene Harris, Chair
   Senate Committee on Educational Policy

FROM: Dana Wright, Director of Academic Program Development

I am submitting for the information of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy the attached Proposal to Suspend Admissions to the Master of Science in Forensic Toxicology.

The proposal was approved by the Head of the Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Pharmacy on June 2, 2014, and reported to the Graduate College Executive Committee on August 29, 2014.

ATTACHMENT
June 2, 2014

To: Dana Wright  
Director of Academic Program Development  
2614 UH, MC 103

From: Adam Negrusz  
Director of Graduate Studies  
M.S. Program in Forensic Toxicology

Re: The Master of Science in Forensic Toxicology

The Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences and the College of Pharmacy request the suspension of the Master of Science in Forensic Toxicology effective immediately.

The degree program was approved by the IBHE in December of 2011. The Master of Science in Forensic Toxicology was designed to be offered through the Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences in the College of Pharmacy. The program was created as a natural outgrowth of the current M.S. in Forensic Science, which is broader in scope, encompassing criminalistics (forensic chemistry, physical pattern evidence, biology / DNA, and materials) as well as forensic toxicology.

Forensic toxicology is the study of the biochemistry, pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of drugs, toxins and exogenous substances (or addition of endogenous substances, such as anabolic steroids), and the analytical methods for detecting and quantitating such drugs and substances in body fluids and tissues. These methods are applied in post-mortem investigations to determine whether drugs or exogenous substances contributed to death as well as in the enforcement of DUI laws, drug-free workplace policies, drug-facilitated sexual assault, and in the regulation of doping in athletic competitions. In the horse and dog racing industries, forensic toxicology methods are applied to the enforcement of medication and anti-doping rules for the racing animals.

The curriculum of the program is as follows:
Minimum Semester Hours Required: 42
Course Work Required Courses:
BPS 570 (Foundations of Forensic Toxicology), 573 (Drug Identification Chemistry), 574 (Forensic Toxicology), two credit hours of 587 (Forensic Science Seminar), GCLS 500 (Physiology), 501 (Biochemistry), 503 (Cell Biology), PhyB 552 (Translational and Applied Physiology), Pcol 501 (Medical Pharmacology I), 502 (Medical Pharmacology II).
Electives: 6 semester hours that may be selected from among Pcol 430, BPS 501, 502, 542, 588, 92.
BPS 598 (M.S. Thesis) is required, no other option is available.

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The suspension is requested for two major reasons. Firstly, the DGS for the program will soon be leaving the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is a Board Certified Forensic Toxicologist and one of the two faculty members for the M.S. in Forensic Sciences. His departure makes the implementation and successful delivery of the program virtually impossible. Secondly, the Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences decided that the replacement faculty member will not be a forensic toxicologist. This will certainly improve the versatility and general functionality of the M.S. in Forensic Sciences, but makes offering the M.S. in Forensic Toxicology unlikely. In addition, the suspension of the M.S. in Forensic Toxicology program will provide the Department with more time to consider all options available, and to evaluate the feasibility and sustainability of the program in the future.

To date, no students have enrolled or been admitted to the M.S. in Forensic Toxicology program. The suspension of the program will not have any adverse effects on the administrative operations of the Department.

Finally, the suspension has been approved by the Associate Dean, Academic Affairs of the College of Pharmacy, Dr. Marieke Schoen, and the Head of the Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences, Dr. William T. Beck.

If you have any additional questions do not hesitate to contact me at 6-2560 or Ms. Randi Zillmer at 6-7248 / randiz@uic.edu . I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Adam Negrusz, PhD
Associate Professor, Forensic Sciences

APPROVED:

Marieke Schoen, PharmD
Associate Dean, Academic Affairs

William T. Beck, PhD
Professor and Head, Biopharmaceutical Sciences