April 30, 2018

**Admissions Committee Annual Report (2017-18)**

Class of 2021

**Members**

Richard Vaillancourt (chair), Ted Tong (ex officio), John Regan, Bill Fritz, Ferena Salek, Beatriz Fuentes, Adrianna Rodriguez, Annie Hiller (2019), Gabriel Rallison (2020), Aeryana Beaudrie-Nunn (2021 PHX), Michaela D’Angelo (2021 PHX), Vivian Nguyen (2021), Julianne Vice (2021), Michael Katz (ad hoc), and Marty Baker (ex officio). The Phoenix students joined Admissions Committee Meetings by Zoom and also participated in the interviews held in Tucson.

**Early Admissions**

Dean Schnellmann requested the College continue to do Early Admissions. The application opened August 1, 2017 and the deadline was September 15th to be eligible to interview two dates in October. A “rolling admissions” process followed, so interviews were also conducted one day in November and December, as well as 3 days in January with a morning and afternoon session on 1/20, 1 day in February and two Skype interviews for candidates out of the country.

**International Admissions**

The minimum qualifications for admissions for international students are a Bachelor’s degree in a pharmacy related field that allows the graduate to practice as a pharmacist in the country in which the degree was obtained, 10 science course prerequisites, pharmacy school grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, iBT TOEFL score of 90 or IELTS score of 7, the PCAT, and postgraduate pharmacy practice experience of at least one year is preferred. Two candidates applied from China, and Saudi Arabia (now living in Arizona). Two were admitted, one declined admission and one student from Arizona was admitted. There was also a candidate admitted from Canada to the Standard Path program.

**Candidate Interviews**

One of the major strengths of the admissions process is that the process is performed in a blind fashion. Candidates apply to the College of Pharmacy through the website and are arbitrarily assigned an ID number. Thus, the applicants remain anonymous to the committee members through-out the interview process.

Candidates were selected for interviews based on:

- a GPA of 3.0 and above
- 40 and above on the PCAT chemistry sub-score
- Letters of recommendation
- At least 50 hours of work or volunteering in a pharmacy setting

Three admissions sub-committees met to verify applicant data. The sub-committees began meeting in September to evaluate the 54 Early Admission candidates. They then met as needed to make admissions decisions as soon as possible after an interview and to evaluate the remaining applicants. Eight interview dates were used to evaluate the candidates. Assisting with the interviews were 70 PharmD students, with 18 faculty members and 14 practitioners interviewing candidates. Interviews consisted of a writing session (topic), a one-on-one
interview with scripted questions, and a lab tour to highlight college of pharmacy research activities. In addition, candidates visited the Poison and Drug Information Center and are provided with interactive time to meet current PharmD students, who answer questions and provide insight into the college of pharmacy experience. Out of 198 candidates who applied, 173 candidates interviewed, and 5 candidates were denied admission due to an Unacceptable Interview Decision. One candidate was re-interviewed with an acceptable 2nd interview.

**Second Year of Phoenix Campus to Admissions**
This admissions cycle was the second year candidates were admitted to the Phoenix Downtown Campus. Admissions for the Phoenix Campus is processed through the Tucson office. Candidates had 5 choices to select on their application, Only Phoenix, Prefer Phoenix, Either Campus, Only Tucson, or Prefer Tucson. All candidates were interviewed in Tucson and were encouraged to visit the Phoenix campus before they responded to acceptance decisions. As of this date, 38 students will attend in Phoenix (with two returning students from last year) and 103 in Tucson. 17 candidates remain on the Phoenix Alternate list who are currently going to attend the Tucson campus.

**Nationwide Decline in Applicant Pool**
AACP reported another 24.1%+ decline in applicants nationally to colleges of pharmacy. This topic will be an issue discussed at the AACP Annual Meeting July 2018 in Boston, MA.

**Class of 2021 Summary Statistics**
At this time spring grades have not yet been received. Some Alternates have been admitted and there are currently 9 remaining on the list. There have been 161 offers made, 141 accepted and 19 candidates declined. Six declined due to tuition costs, 5 stated the UofA was not their first choice, 3 for family reasons, and others wanted to live close to their chosen school. Interestingly we lost 2 candidates to Belmont in Nashville, TN, 2 to Midwestern, USC, U CA, Chapman, UT-Austin, U TX, Butler, Ohio State, 2 - U of UT, U IL-Chicago, and U NC. 52 were admitted from the UofA, 23 ASU, 7 Grand Canyon, 7 NAU, 19 Maricopa Community Colleges, and 12 from Pima Community College.

**Changing to the PharmCas Application**
Student Services Staff have been meeting since March 23, 2018 learning of, building the PharmCas application and updating the College of Pharmacy website. Two staff will travel to Boston to attend AACP Admissions Workshop July 20 & 21. The PharmCas application opens on 7/18/18, the Early Decision Deadline is 9/4/18 and the Deadline is 12/3/18 for fall 2019.