MEMORANDUM

TO:         Frank Romanelli, Pharm.D., MPH; Associate Dean

FROM:   Jeff Cain, EdD, Chair – Curriculum Committee
          Chuck Lofin, Ph.D., Faculty Secretary – College of Pharmacy

RE:   Academic Progression Policy (Doctor of Pharmacy - Class of 2019)

Background
The current Doctor of Pharmacy curricula at the University of Kentucky was implemented in 1996 and with few minor exceptions the degree program has essentially remained unchanged. As a component of the 2011-13 Collegiate Strategic Plan the faculty endorsed a broad scale curricular reform process. Beginning in July of 2011 the College constituted several committees and working groups to design a new curricular framework that would both change the content and delivery model associated with the current Doctor of Pharmacy degree program. In May of 2014 the faculty and other parties participated in a Curricular Reform Retreat held at the Boone Center. Launch of the ‘new’ curriculum (with the first professional year) is projected for Fall 2016.

Issue
Students entering the program in Fall 2015 (graduating class of 2019) will take each course in its final offering. Each and every course in the current required curriculum will cease to exist after that cohort completes it.

The Academic Performance Committee (APC) is charged with monitoring students’ progress through the curriculum. The committee regularly reviews (during and at the end of each semester) the performance of each student based upon course grades and written comments submitted regarding each student’s performance. The APC for students in a particular year consists of the course directors and laboratory instructors for that academic year, plus a standing core of faculty. The APC will normally recommend an action appropriate to a particular student standing and record (i.e., proceed to the next series of courses, promotion to the next year, graduation, probation, probation with remedial action, removal from probation, academic leave, suspension or other action). Under current Academic Progression Policy, students who score below a C in a course are referred to APC and must, at a minimum, repeat that course in order to continue progression through the program. Students from the Class of 2019 who fail a course will technically be unable to repeat that course because it will no longer be offered. Furthermore, course content and sequences in the revised curriculum are not equivalent to courses in the current curriculum, which inhibits a simple assignment to an alternate course in the new curriculum.

The College’s Curriculum Committee in consultation with the APC recommended to College faculty the following amendment to the Academic Progression Policy for PharmD Class of 2019 students:

“The APC will determine on a case-by-case basis the appropriate remediation plan for each student who earns a grade below a “C” in a course.”

Policy was endorsed at the December meeting of the curriculum committee and approved by the faculty as a whole on December 3, 2019.
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