### Annual Chapter Report Outline

Please complete your Annual Chapter Report and submit to the National Office by May 15.

**Date of report submission:** 2015-05-08

**Name of School/College:** Harding University College of Pharmacy

**Chapter Name & region:** Delta Omicron, Region VI

**Delegate who attended the Rho Chi Annual Meeting:** Debbie Waggoner, Pharm.D., BCNP Assistant Rho Chi Advisor

**Date Delegate’s name submitted:** 2015-02-12

Past year's officers and e-mail addresses

President

First Name  
Parisa

Last Name  
Khan

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Vice President

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Daniel

Last Name  
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Historian

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Karen

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Rorex

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New officers and e-mail addresses for next academic year  
(If not yet elected, please indicate date of anticipated election and report names within one week of election)  
2015-10-30

New officers and e-mail addresses

President

First Name

Last Name

Email

Vice President

First Name

Last Name  
Bailey

Email

Secretary

First Name

Last Name

Email

Treasurer

First Name

Last Name

Email

Historian

First Name

Last Name

Email

Chapter advisor’s name and e-mail address

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Rodney

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Richmond

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[rrichmond@harding.edu](mailto:rrichmond@harding.edu)

**Chapter advisor’s name and e-mail address**

[chapter-advisors]

**Introduction**

Since our establishment in 2013, the Delta Omicron Chapter of Rho Chi has committed itself to work toward fulfilling a mission for academic service to the Harding University College of Pharmacy (HUCOP) and a mission to encourage intellectual achievement and stimulate critical inquiry as set forth by Rho Chi National. This year our chapter has conceptualized, developed, and implemented a variety of programs which have been designed to meet specific needs aimed at improving academic performance among our students. During our initial year as a newly chartered chapter, HUCOP alumni expressed concern that preparation for the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination in the area of calculations needed to be improved upon. Working with the HUCOP faculty, the Delta Omicron chapter took on the task of developing a calculations tutoring program that both reinforced the curriculum in the area of calculations and provided preparation for the NAPLEX exam. More specifically, weekly calculations labs were held with an instructor in the evening. The labs were held to aid first year students in pharmaceutics, to provide a review for P2 and P3 students, and to help P4 students to prepare for the NAPLEX. These labs included a brief review of material such as electrolyte or isotonic solutions and a demonstration of the calculations within the respective concepts. For each session, practice problems were provided to all students to further aid in learning enhancement. Additionally, we hosted a nutritional and medicinal foods review, taught by a dietician, to help the P3 and P4 students prepare for the NAPLEX since this was not covered didactically in previous years. Finally, we conducted informational meetings for all students about NAPLEX review sources and to provide information about the exam itself. These initial programs served as a pilot for our current academic year’s primary aim: to develop and implement a series of intensive and comprehen sive “boot camp” review sessions to help students prepare, not only for the NAPLEX, but also for a competency exam administered at the end of the P3 spring semester that determines matriculation into the fourth year APPE rotations. The busy and well-attended meeting schedule that follows serves as evidence of our accomplishments, the details of which appear under the strategic planning and activities section of this report.

**Meetings** Please provide information on meetings held in the following tabular format

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Attendance | Agenda | Action Steps |
| 2014-09-25 | Larry Long, PhD, Provost, Harding University; Julie Hixson-Wallace, PharmD, BCPS, Dean, Harding University College of Pharmacy; Rodney Richmond, MS, CGP, FASCP, Rho Chi Advisor; and Debbie Waggoner, PharmD, BCNP, Assistant Rho Chi Advisor; Harding University College of Pharmacy Faculty Rho Chi members, Delta Omicron alumni, 13 inductees, and numerous family members and guests. | Induction of new members and keynote address by guest speaker Dr. Barbara Wells Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus at The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy | New members were inducted into Rho Chi and given honor cords, pin, and certificate |
| 2014-11-14 | Chapter advisor and new members | Election of officers, discussion of fundraising opportunities, planning of activities including NAPLEX Review and calculations tutoring | Officers were elected. Meetings with faculty scheduled to discuss NAPLEX Review. Set future meeting dates. |
| 2014-12-02 | Chapter advisor and Rho Chi members | Finalize NAPLEX Review planning and set first Calculations Lab | Schedule developed for NAPLEX review sessions including topics to be covered and faculty covering each topic. First calculations lab scheduled |
| 2015-01-23 | Chapter advisor and Rho Chi members | Discuss NAPLEX review and uploading of videos, calculations tutoring, general tutoring, and fund raising | Decision made to record NAPLEX reviews and upload online so that P4 students away from campus can view them. Date of next calculations tutoring session scheduled. General tutoring "Study Hall" scheduled for every Wednesday at noon. |

**Strategic Planning:** What goals were set that relate to the Rho Chi mission?

Delta Omicron, being a young chapter—only in its second year of existence, set goals that worked to increase the visibility of Rho Chi at HUCOP. We sought to encourage the achievement, professional development, and collaboration of leaders in our college by implementing events on campus. We began by identifying the needs of students and then set out to plan and institute activities to meet those needs.  
Strategic planning for the 2014-15 academic year led the Delta Omicron chapter to develop Rho Chi guided academic services that included: (1) our marquee NAPLEX “Boot Camp” series, (2) an improved offering of calculations labs, (3) weekly study hall sessions, and one-on-one by-appointment student tutoring, and (4) the development of a standardized set of laboratory values to be used for on-campus projects, testing, and experiential applications. This aggressive development of academic services, all of which work to meet the HUCOP and Rho Chi National missions of intellectual achievement, made this an extraordinarily successful year. The depth and scope of the projects undertaken and executed by the Delta Omicron Chapter truly conveys the passion, enthusiasm, and commitment to excellence portrayed by its members. Each of these programs are further described below under related activities.  
Strategic planning sessions recently conducted in anticipation of the 2015-16 academic year have centered around: (1) plans to meet with incoming and current P1 and P2 students to provide information about Rho Chi and to encourage students to set academic and leadership goals early in their pharmacy education; (2) planning for a regional research symposium to which surrounding pharmacy schools would be invited; the purpose of which would be to provide a forum for PharmD, masters, and PhD students to make podium presentations of their research projects and to foster professional networking relationships with members of various regional pharmacy schools; and (3) fundraising for the purpose of establishing an endowment fund to support Rho Chi academic services and intellectual inquiry, a more in depth description of which is included in the Financial Budgeting section below.

**Activities**

1. NAPLEX Boot Camp: Changes to the pharmacy curriculum that were implemented this academic year presented a unique opportunity for the Delta Omicron Chapter to positively affect the academic setting at HUCOP. The addition of a baseline competency exam at the beginning of the spring P3 semester and a final competency exam at the end of the spring P3 semester created an opportune time for an educational intervention. The Delta Omicron Chapter hypothesized a plan for the improvement of student’s scores between the baseline and final competency exam: a 15-week intensive review of all subjects appearing on the exam that could also serve as a supplemental study guide for P4 students preparing for the NAPLEX. The “NAPLEX Boot Camp” as it came to be known was developed as an informal course with 10 varying lecturers delivering topics based on their area(s) of expertise. A fully-functional Canvas learning management software webpage was developed that included links to handouts, references, and additional resources, as well as video-recorded lectures that out-of-state students on rotation could view. A total of 156 students enrolled in the Canvas-based boot camp, which was more than the number of P3 and P4 students in the program and reflected the fact that even several P2 students were interested in the program. While there may be other variables that factored into performance on the competency post-test when compared to the pre-test, scores improved across the board including the lowest (↑12%), average (↑13%) and highest (↑11%) scores. Of the 5 students who did not pass the competency exam, 2 students cumulatively attended a total of only 4 boot camp sessions while the other 3 students did not attend any sessions at all. As this program continues, plans are being made to conduct research on the efficacy of the boot camp intervention on improving performance on the baseline competency exam and NAPLEX scores. Plans are to repeat t he NAPLEX Boot Camp during the spring 2016 semester with a primary goal delivery and access improvement.

2. Calculations Tutoring: Rho Chi identified a need at our college for additional tutoring of P1 students who were enrolled in a pharmacy calculations course. Since September 2014, the Delta Omicron chapter conducted two full-classroom calculations tutoring sessions designed to help P1 students improve on their upcoming calculations exams. Rho Chi members coordinated their efforts with faculty and P1 class officers around exam schedules and special course topics that were identified as needing extra attention. The first live tutoring session took place December 4, 2014 with 24 students in attendance, and a second tutoring session was completed March 19, 2015 with 12 students in attendance. Additional student-specific tutoring was offered on as needed basis via email communications. Calculations labs and tutoring sessions have become a staple of the Rho Chi services and will continue through both fall and spring semesters of each year.

3. Study Hall Sessions and One-on-One Tutoring: During the period of January to March, 2015 the Delta Omicron Chapter offered a weekly study hall session for any P1 through P3 pharmacy student. We also opened the study hall sessions up to physician assistant students who are taught clinical pharmacology by the pharmacy faculty in the same building. Two Rho Chi members staffed the study hall sessions each week, offering tutoring on any pharmacy subject dictated only by individual student need. The organization of one-on-one tutoring sessions were facilitated through the distribution of a Google document to coordinate individually scheduled times, etc. The timing of icy weather conditions with related closure of the university campus relative to scheduling of our Spring break served to disrupt tutoring and study hall sessions. Study hall sessions and one-on-one tutoring will continue to be offered with plans for improving the visibility of these student-focused services.

4. HUCOP Official Laboratory Values Sheet: Due to the variation in “normal” lab values currently used by faculty in student instruction, caused in part by differing faculty clinical sites served, Rho Chi identified a need for a “standardized” normal laboratory values reference sheet. The purpose of this standardized reference is so that it could be used by faculty with all pharmacy students strictly for on-campus projects, examinations, case-based learning exercises, and other experiential applications. Delta Omicron has prepared a final draft of this standardized lab sheet with individual faculty input with the product having been endorsed by the curriculum committee. The document has been presented to the departments of pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical sciences for final approval with concrete plans to distribute and implement use of the standard lab values during the fall semester 2015. It is intended that this standardized reference be used on a regula r basis with updates or changes incorporated as needed.

**Financial Budgeting**

Each academic year, funds are allocated for our Chapter by the HUCOP Dean. To honor our Rho Chi inductees, the chapter pays the membership fee and purchases honor cords for incoming members. During American Pharmacist Month through a shared budget, Rho Chi and the Council of Students provided lunch for the faculty. Chapter fundraising consisted of selling the APhA Peripheral Brain for the Pharmacist, 3rd Edition. The financial portion of our strategic planning includes the establishment of a $25,000 endowment, the purpose of which would be to support on-campus academic services, underwrite visiting professors to offer guest lectureships, and to stimulate student-directed intellectual inquiry. To facilitate the establishment of this endowment the Delta Omicron chapter has secured a commitment from a donor for matching funds for the first $2,500 raised by the chapter through other donors. This program will be undertaken by the incoming class of 2015 Rho Chi inductees.

Revenue:  
• Rho Chi budget allocated by HUCOP Dean + 1,250.00  
(Includes fundraising through sale of peripheral brains)

Expenses:  
• Initiation fees for 13 new members ($30 society dues, $5 membership – 845.00  
Certificates and $30 official jewelry per member)  
• 13 Honor Cords for new members ($12.50 per cord) -162.50  
• Catering costs for Induction Ceremony: – 232.14

Balance: + 10.36

**Installation Function**

The initiation ceremony took place on September 25, 2014 in the Cone Chapel on the campus of Harding University in Searcy, AR. In attendance were: Larry Long, PhD, Provost, Harding University; Julie Hixson-Wallace, PharmD, BCPS, Dean, Harding University College of Pharmacy; Rodney Richmond, MS, CGP, FASCP, Rho Chi Advisor; and Debbie Waggoner, PharmD, BCNP, Assistant Rho Chi Advisor; Harding University College of Pharmacy Faculty Rho Chi members, Delta Omicron alumni, 13 inductees, and numerous family members and guests. The induction ceremony was opened by Dr. Long who provided the invocation and extended a welcome as the official Harding University representative. Mr. Richmond delivered welcoming remarks as the Rho Chi advisor, and turned the ceremony over to the Rho Chi officers who delivered speeches regarding the mission and history of Rho Chi, recognized the new inductees, and presented each with a membership certificate and pin along with honor cords. The ceremony culminated in a keynote address by honored guest, Dr. Barbara Wells, entitled “To Whom Much is Given, Much is Required”. Dr. Wells is an icon in pharmacy and is the Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus at The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy as well as an editor of the textbook Pharmacotherapy: A Pathophysiologic Approach.

**Evaluation/Reflection**

Through new initiatives such as the “NAPLEX Boot Camp,” calculations tutoring, study hall, the generation of a HUCOP Laboratory Values Sheet, and the establishment of a Rho Chi Endowment Fund, the Delta Omicron Chapter of the Rho Chi Society has extensively reached out to fellow pharmacy students to foster professional growth and provide support to all HUCOP students. This year, the chapter successfully developed and executed 15 sessions of NAPLEX Boot Camp, two Calculations Labs, and six study hall sessions. In addition, ongoing changes are being implemented to improve upon these projects to best address the needs of our school. This includes offering the NAPLEX Boot Camp videos and recordings online to allow fourth year students who are away from campus to participate. Additionally, tutoring projects and calculations labs are being adjusted to address individual student’s needs, including the addition of by-appointment tutoring. The creation and vision of the $25,0 00 Endowment Fund will allow for a massive increase in Delta Omicron’s delivery of our mission and goals. Overall, the projects undertaken this year have dramatically increased the visibility of Rho Chi as an organization committed to promoting academic excellence and service. We also believe that our efforts have extensively improved the academic achievements of several individual students with a multitude of various needs. The comprehensive academic improvement approach has been a tangible success.

**Other Information**

We look forward to continually improving upon and expanding our services to the Harding University College of Pharmacy students and to promoting the overall quality of the didactic program.