Annual Chapter Report

Date of report submission: May 15th, 2016

**Name of School/College:** Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy

**Chapter name and region:** Lambda, Region III, Mid Atlantic

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

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**Delegate who attended the Rho Chi Annual Meeting:** Jordan McEwen

**Date delegate’s name submitted to Rho Chi:** February 9th, 2016

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**Number of Rho Chi student members at college or school, listed by class year/program:**

3rd year Pharm.D.: 21 (Richmond: 15, UVA: 2, INOVA: 4)

4th year Pharm.D.: 29

Graduate: 6

**Meetings**: (R= Richmond, C = Charlottesville campus, I = INOVA campus)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Attendance | Agenda | Action Steps |
| 8/12/15 | Executive Board | -Prepare for Open House  -Prepare the “Rx for Success” presentation  -Organize fundraising ideas and opportunities | -Planned for Open House and “Rx for Success”  -Ordered fundraising items for Open House |
| 8/24/15 | Executive Board | -Prepare for general body meeting | -Prepared for general body meeting |
| 9/2/15 | R: 8  C: 1  I: 1 | -Recruit members for upcoming activities  -Recap Open House and “Rx for Success”  -Highlight future fundraising ideas for the school year | -Reported attendance at “Rx for Success” and fundraising totals from Open House  -Gave dates for upcoming events |
| 9/28/15 | Executive Board | -Prepare for general body meeting | -Prepared for general body meeting |
| 10/7/15 | R: 7  C: 1  I: 1 | -Gauge interest of P3 members for tutoring P1/P2 students  -Highlight upcoming events  -Recap volunteer activity | -Forwarded P3 members interested in tutoring to the scholarship chair  -Shared pictures and our experience from volunteering with our philanthropy |
| 11/2/15 | Executive Board | -Prepare for general body meeting | -Prepared for general body meeting |
| 11/11/15 | R: 7  C: 0  I: 0 | -Semester recap  -Student/faculty trivia competition | -quick recap of the fall semester  -Held a school-wide trivia competition to showcase non-pharmacy knowledge |
| 2/2/16 | Executive Board | -Prepare for general body meeting | -Prepared for general body meeting |
| 2/3/16 | R: 13  C: 1  I: 1 | -Recruit members for journal clubs  -Plan for Pharmacy Bowl and Spelling Bee  -Recruit members for APPE boot camp reviews and encourage completing survey | -Highlighted two upcoming events  -Invited members to present a journal article  -Planned for Pharmacy Bowl and Spelling Bee  -Made members aware of APPE boot camp reviews later in the semester |
| 2/29/16 | Executive Board | -Prepare for general body meeting | -Prepared for general body meeting |
| 3/2/16 | R: 9  C: 0  I: 0 | -Discuss APhA national meeting and relay any important information from the selected delegate  -Plan for Pharmacy Bowl, Inductions, APPE reviews, and elections  -Hold a journal club | -Reported information from APhA meeting  -Planned for upcoming events and recruited members to help or participate as needed  -Presented the TECOS Trial as a journal club |
| 4/4/16 | Executive Board | -Prepare for general body meeting | -Prepared for general body meeting |
| 4/13/16 | R: 28  C: 1  I: 0 | -Elect a new executive board  -Plan for executive transitions toward the end of the semester | -Elected new executive board members  -Planned for transitions when time allowed over the upcoming weeks |

**Strategic Planning**:

Continuing with the success the chapter had in the previous school year, this year Lambda Chapter strengthened its ties to the recently chosen philanthropy, the Central Virginia Asthma Coalition (CVAC). In October 2015, three executive board members volunteered at the “Asthma Camp” in Richmond, VA, to help answer questions and provide knowledge to children with asthma, as well as their caretakers. In lieu of volunteering with a second camp (which was unfortunately canceled due to a fire at the community center), the chapter made a $100 donation to the organization, using proceeds from fundraisers during the school year. In addition to the events with our philanthropy, the chapter organized and hosted two new events open to all members of the pharmacy school. These events were a non-pharmacy, academic trivia competition in the fall semester, as well as a spelling bee comprised of drug names in the spring semester. Both events were well received and we hope that they continue to grow in future years! All of the new events that the chapter undertook this year, in addition to existing events/services, bolstered the scholarship and service the chapter and organization are able to provide to pharmacy students and community members. The chapter will look to improve its relationship with the philanthropy and continue to serve all students with fun and informative activities.

**Activities**:

This year the chapter undertook a few new activities to supplement existing activities throughout the school year. Lambda Chapter hosted a Trivia Night in the fall semester, with teams of four to six students and one faculty member competing in non-pharmacy based trivia. The winning team received a pizza lunch and other prizes and awards were given out as well. Also new to the chapter was a spelling bee that involved brand and generic names; 14 participants entered the contest and competed until a winner was crowned. This event in particular was moderated by the Dean’s wife, Cecily DiPiro, who is a Rho Chi member herself!

Another new event this year was participation in an asthma camp with the chapter’s philanthropy, the Central Virginia Asthma Coalition. “Camp Incredible” was held at a local community center and both children and caretakers attended, and received information about how to live with and manage asthma. Three executive board members attended the camp to serve as a pharmacy liaison and answer questions and give demonstrations. A second camp was planned for the spring, but due to a fire at the center it was cancelled and the chapter made a donation to support CVAC instead.

The remainder of chapter events were fairly standard as in years past, with minor changes made here and there. Feedback has been consistently positive with these events and we will plan to continue them in future school years, adding new events as the chapter see fits based on continual feedback from participants.

For specific details concerning all chapter activities, please see Appendix 1.

**Financial/ Budgeting**:

Comprehensive medicinal chemistry and pharmaceutical calculations packets, as well as educational/academic fundraisers contributed to about half of the incoming funds for the school year, with the rest of the funds coming from the VCU SOP and Rite Aid Pharmacy. In addition to normal funding from the school, this year the Dean’s Office granted the chapter an extra $500 to cover any costs associated with tutoring, as well as the induction ceremony. Most all purchases were small amounts and covered by the chapter without a vote, and larger expenditures were expected, and therefore backed by donations, dues, or funding from the school. Overall, the initiation ceremony was the same level of quality as it was last year, and the chapter saved money in the process, contributing to an overall greater financial standing of the chapter at year end.

For specific details concerning chapter finances, please see Appendix 2.

**Initiation Function**:

The 2016 Spring Induction Ceremony was held in April at Maggiano’s Little Italy restaurant in Short Pump Town Center. As in years past, each inductee was invited to attend and bring two guests to enjoy in a delicious lunch, followed by the induction and initiation ceremony. Our co-advisors, Dr. Donohoe and Dr. Gerk, were both in attendance, as well as VCU School of Pharmacy Dean Joseph DiPiro, who gave a congratulatory address during the ceremony. Lambda Chapter was proud to induct 21 P2 students, four P3 students, one graduate student, and one faculty member! Our keynote speaker was Dr. Gretchen Brophy, a distinguished pharmacist and professor at the VCU School of Pharmacy, who was our second annual faculty member inductee.

**Evaluation/Reflection**:

In comparison to last year, the Lambda Chapter of Rho Chi has continued to grow as an organization. After selecting CVAC as our chapter philanthropy last year, we volunteered with their asthma camp in the fall and had planned to do so again in the spring (before the cancellation). Our Vice President kept open a great line of communication with the CVAC leaders and we tried to lend a helping hand whenever possible. There is definitely more room for growth in the coming years, and I look forward to what future executive boards are able to achieve. We also continued to use our recent Facebook page implementation, utilizing it to serve as an outlet for photos and other announcements from our recent events.

Looking back at our experiences this year, and how we can change going forward, there are a couple of items that come to mind. The Pharmacy Bowl, Trivia Night, and Spelling Bee were all a huge success, so we will definitely continue these events as they promote scholarship, both pharmacy and non-pharmacy related, and still in an academic manner. One struggle to note is the attendance of general body meetings, and other events that don’t have the “fun” appeal that Pharmacy Bowl or Trivia Night have. It was difficult in the past to garner support, even with the use of refreshments and other incentives. As an executive board, we were not sure how to better promote and encourage member turnout, but in discussing with the newly elected president, there are some possible avenues to explore to help enhance attendance. One potential aspect of this problem may lie in the fact that many of the Rho Chi members are presidents and executive board members of multiple organizations, and there were too many scheduling conflicts. More flexible scheduling may help alleviate this issue, although mandatory meeting attendance does not seem like the best way to improve attendance (the idea was briefly discussed, however).

Overall, there is no reason to significantly alter any of the events that we hold, other than making minor updates and adjustments, as seen fit by the executive board and/or advisors. Feedback from the various activities was generally very positive, and well received by the target audience. We were not able to hold as many journal clubs as in years past, due to one of our chapter advisors going out on maternity leave. However, the journal clubs were successful in years past and the results from those in attendance is very promising. With all of this in mind, we are confident that the incoming executive board will continue in this trend of excellence!

**Other Information**:

An exciting piece of news has finally come to fruition this year in the form of a publication related to chapter activities! Chapter advisor Krista Donohoe co-authored a paper concerning student-led journal clubs that was published during the spring semester (*Currents in Pharmacy Teaching & Learning*. 2016; 8(2): 173-177). Based on journal clubs held during the 2013-2014 school year, analysis of pre- and post-questionnaires showed that students felt more confident in their abilities to interpret medical literature after completion of the journal club sessions. All scores showed an increase, with confidence in evaluating statistical methods, evaluating study design, and level of topic understanding all increasing significantly. Both presenters and participants exhibited an increased confidence in their abilities, so perhaps extracurricular, student-led journal clubs could be implanted to further prepare students for advanced pharmacy practice experience and/or residency. We as a chapter congratulate our advisor for this achievement!

**Appendix 1**

**Chapter Activities**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lambda Chapter Virginia Commonwealth University Activity Table | | | | | | | |  |
| Category of Activity | Title of Activity | Brief Description | How Does This Activity Align With the Rho Chi Mission Statement? | Years the Activity has Been Ongoing? | If Activity has Been Ongoing for >1 Year, What Evaluations Have Been Done to Assess the Success of the Activity and What Improvements Have Been Done Over the Past Year? | How Many Members Participated in the Activity? | How Many Students (non-members) and/or Patients were impacted by the Activity? | Financial Information for the Activity [Budget Required, Fundraising Amount] |
| Intellectual Leadership Activity | “Rx for Success” | Presentation to the P1 students on how to succeed in first semester of pharmacy school. | It advances the scholarship of P1 students. | Annually | Verbal feedback was solicited/received and the presentation is reviewed prior to each year. | 2 | 86 | N/A |
| Intellectual Leadership Activity | Tutoring | Student tutoring requests were forwarded to the scholarship chair by the Dean’s office after their approval. | It advances the scholarship of P1 and P2 students. | Ongoing | No feedback was obtained this year. | 7 | 8 | N/A |
| Intellectual Leadership Activity | Journal Clubs | We hosted one journal club in the spring semester to give insight as to how to present a journal article. | It advances the scholarship of all students at the school. | Ongoing | No feedback was obtained this year. | 5 | 2 | N/A |
| Intellectual Leadership Activity | APPE Preceptor Panel | Preceptors representing three rotation types answered questions about APPE rotations and how to make the most of them. The past president of Rho Chi gave a student’s perspective. | It prepares P3 students for their fourth year rotations. | Annually | No feedback was obtained this year and no major changes occurred since last year. | 7 | 28 | N/A |
| Intellectual Leadership Activity | APPE Boot Camp Reviews | Review sessions were presented on ACS, HF and stroke, as well as ID in the spring semester. These topics were identified from an APPE Needs survey sent out in January. | It prepares P3 students for their fourth year rotations. | Annually | No feedback was obtained this year and no major changes occurred since last year. | 12 | 31 | N/A |
| School of Pharmacy Event | VCU SOP Open House | Introduced students to the school and Rho Chi. Sold the two review packets. | It promotes scholarship of P1 students. | Annually | No feedback was obtained this year and no major changes occurred since last year. | 3 | 90 | N/A |
| School of Pharmacy Event | P2 Recognition Lunch | Lunch to recognize the top 25% of the P2 class. Dean DiPiro, our advisors, and our sponsor from Rite Aid offered congratulatory remarks and advice. | It promotes scholarship of the P2 students. | Annually | No feedback was obtained this year and no major changes occurred since last year. | 8 | 34 | Funds were used to pay for the lunch and the certificates (See appendix 2) |
| Patient Outreach Event, Community Service | Asthma Camp | Partnered with the Central Virginia Asthma Coalition to educate the children and caretakers about asthma and inhaler use. | It promotes the health of the community. | New | N/A | 3 | 45 | N/A |
| Fundraising Event, Educational Activity | Pharmacy Bowl | Jeopardy-style trivia competition based on a variety of pharmacy knowledge. Teams consisted of a P1, P2, and P3 to promote collaboration among the class years and ensure equal level of knowledge. | It advances the scholarship of all students at the school. | Annually | No feedback was obtained this year and no major changes occurred since last year | 8 | 46 | Funds were used to provide prizes for the winners and funds were raised (See appendix 2) |
| Fundraising Event, Educational Activity | Spelling Bee | Spelling bee, moderated by the Dean’s wife, Cecily DiPiro, who is also a Rho Chi member. Rounds alternated between generic and brand names, until a winner was crowned. | It advances the scholarship of all students at the school. | New | Verbal feedback was received from participants and was positive; minor changes will be made for next year, accordingly. | 4 | 11 | N/A |
| Fundraising Event, Educational Activity | Trivia Night | Non-pharmacy based, academic trivia competition at the SOP. Six faculty members participated and students were allowed to form teams freely with the available professors. | It advances the scholarship of all students at the school. | New | Verbal feedback was received from participants and was positive; minor changes will be made for next year, accordingly. | 5 | 36 | Funds were used to provide prizes for the winners and funds were raised (See appendix 2) |
| Fundraising Event | Medicinal Chemistry Review Packets | We sold medicinal chemistry review packets to P1 students in need of an extra resource. | It advances the scholarship of P1 students. | Annually | No feedback was obtained this year and no major changes occurred since last year. | 2 | 46 | Funds were raised (See appendix 2) |
| Fundraising Event | Pharmacy Calculations Practice Packets | We sold practice pharmaceutical calculation packets to P1 students in need of an extra resource. | It advances the scholarship of P1 students. | Annually | No feedback was obtained this year and no major changes occurred since last year. | 2 | 37 | Funds were raised (See appendix 2) |

**Appendix 2**

**Chapter Finances**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lambda Chapter Virginia Commonwealth University Finance Table | | | | |
| Item | Amount debited | Amount credited | Balance | Comment |
| Balance forward |  | $2,675 | $2,675 | Starting balance |
| Selling study packets to students | $117 | $1,250 | $3,808 |  |
| P2 Recognition Lunch | $545 |  | $3,262 | Printed materials and boxed lunches |
| Rite Aid Sponsorship for P2 recognition lunch |  | $500 | $3,762 |  |
| Donation to Central VA Asthma Coalition | $100 |  | $3,662 | Donation, since unable to volunteer |
| Pharmacy Bowl + Trivia Night | $78 | $410 | $3,994 |  |
| Deposit for induction ceremony venue | $900 |  | $3,094 | Maggiano’s Short Pump Town Center |
| Membership induction checks |  | $3,900 | $6,994 |  |
| Payment to Rho Chi National Office | $2,130 |  | $4,864 |  |
| Induction ceremony catering | $2,485 |  | $2,380 |  |
| Rho Chi board supplies | $19 |  | $2,361 |  |
| Funding from VCU SOP |  | $1,500 | $3,861 | $500 from FY14-15; $1000 from FY15-16 |
| Gift for advisor’s newborn baby | $56 |  | $3,805 |  |
| Ending balance |  |  | $3,805 | Ending balance |