



The Rho Chi Society

Minutes of the Executive Council

Monday, March 20, 2006

Hilton San Francisco Hotel

San Francisco, CA

Immediate Past-President Gary Stoehr called the Meeting to order at 8:42 AM.

Members Present: Past-Immediate Past-President Daniel C. Robinson, President Gary E. DeLander, President-Elect Karen L. Rascati, Executive Vice-President A. Wayne Pittman, Secretary Paul W. Jungnickel, Historian J. Douglas Bricker, and National Office Administrative Assistant Gail R. Moriarty

Regional Councilors Present: Jack Reynolds (I), Victoria F. Roche (V), Jonathan J. Wolfe (VI), Lori J. Morin (VII), and Anne Y. Lin (VIII).

Student Representatives Present: Katie Greener (Alpha Alpha - Creighton University) and Emmanuelle Mirsakov (Theta - University of Southern California).

Regional Councilors Absent: Dong-Churl Suh(II), Mary Ann Kirkpatrick (III), and Karen J. Kopacek (IV)

The minutes from the April 4, 2005 (Orlando) and July 9, 2005 (Salt Lake City) Executive Council Meetings were distributed and it was moved and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion carried.

Immediate Past-President Stoehr commented briefly on two issues:

- Size of regions due to opening of new pharmacy schools – Region III now has twenty chapters. The society may need to change its regional structure.
- Communication issues – Most of the items discussed at yesterday's Annual Meeting have already been addressed. The biggest issue is that of holding regional councilors accountable for communicating with chapters in their region.

Executive Vice President/Treasurer Wayne Pittman presented the detailed budget of the Society and highlighted several items listed in the budget.

Audit Committee (Jack Reynolds - Chair): The audit was completed as instructed. Chairman Reynolds commented that the audit was easy to perform due to the fine work of the National Office.

Nomination Committee (Dan Robinson - Chair): Chairman Robinson led the discussion of a number of issues related to the nomination and election of officers:

- Expansion of candidate pool for regional councilors – Regional councilors generally come from the ranks of chapter faculty advisors. It was suggested that a call could be put out the other Rho Chi faculty members to solicit their interest in running for regional councilor positions.

- It was suggested that the election procedure could be changed to allow each candidate for office to make a statement prior to voting at the Annual Meeting. Written statements could be provided by candidates who were not able to attend the meeting.
- The possibility of having student regional councilors was suggested, with terms being for one year.
- Methods for transition of communications to newly elected officers were discussed. It was suggested that sending out a shorter newsletter more often might help with this.

Chapter Awards Committee (Gary DeLander - Chair): President DeLander reviewed the process for selecting the outstanding chapter. The regional councilors do the initial screening and then all Executive Council members evaluate and vote on the final reports. He further reported that for this past cycle there were five chapter proposals submitted. All were acceptable and two were selected for awards.

A discussion ensued about the need to clarify what a chapter proposal really should be. This has been a problem in the past, but there seemed to be less confusion this year. Questions that seemingly need to be further addressed include the following: What is an appropriate proposal? What types of proposals really fit the mission and vision of Rho Chi? Should there be a limit on how often a chapter can win a project or proposal award? What about the possibility of not allowing chapters to win such awards in two consecutive years? Executive Council Members Rascati, Reynolds and Stoehr agreed to review these issues and bring recommendations to the July 2006 Executive Council Meeting.

Scholarship/Fellowship Committee (Gary DeLander - Chair): President DeLander discussed issues concerning the Rho Chi, Schering Plough, AFPE First-Year Graduate Scholarship. There continues to be concern about the number of applicants, with 8 being received this year. President DeLander reported that he recruited several faculty members to review the applications. He further reported that AFPE wants a standard evaluation form and an AFPE member on the selection committee. It was recommended that the section on financial information be removed from the application because this is not a need-based award. APFE has voiced a commitment to continued funding of this scholarship.

President DeLander reported that there were 5 applications for the Rho Chi, Eli Lilly and Company, Clinical Research Scholarship, which was down from previous years. Rho Chi solicits applications by having ACCP send out information and application materials to fellowship directors, and it was suggested that we ask ACCP to send out these materials a second time during the application cycle. During the discussion it was suggested that consideration be given to allowing this award to be given to a second-year fellow. It was also reported that the evaluators thought that the evaluation process put too much emphasis on the applicants' GPAs and that the emphasis on GPA should be decreased or consideration of GPA even be eliminated. There is concern as to whether Eli Lilly will continue to fund the Clinical Research Scholarship.

Lecture Award Committee: Dr. Robert McCarthy will be chairing this Committee. It was reported that currently there is a backlog of possible candidates for the Lecture Award.

Review of Luncheon and 82st Annual Meeting: Around 145 were in attendance, and 150 meals were guaranteed. The cost of the luncheon continues to greatly exceed the revenue collected. A discussion ensued over the concern about scheduling of the Luncheon by APhA and issues of conflicts with other events. Specific issues mentioned were as follows:

- The compressed APhA Meeting schedule (meeting reduced from 5 days to 4 days) for future years will likely further increase conflicts
- Could we move the luncheon up to earlier in the meeting?
- Do we want to approach Phi Lambda Sigma about reinstating a joint luncheon?
- Moving to an evening event would likely cause more conflicts.

Results of Roundtable discussions – The notes were collected and will be appended to the Annual Meeting Minutes.

Issues concerning regional meetings were discussed. The pros and cons of holding separate regional meetings versus having Rho Chi sessions as part of the ASP Midyear Regional Meetings were discussed. One suggested option would be to pilot a Rho Chi reception at an ASP Midyear Regional Meeting. Immediate Past-President Stoehr will follow up on this.

It was also decided that a rewritten description of winning awards should be posted on the Rho Chi National website.

Unfinished Business: The issue of the combining of the University of South Carolina and the Medical University of South Carolina Colleges of Pharmacy into a single new college was reviewed and discussed. Since a new corporate entity is being created, the appropriate procedure seems to be that the two previous chapters would be dissolved and the Society would ask for a petition for a new chapter. The possibility that the newly created chapter could bear the Greek letters of one of the previous chapters was discussed. Executive Vice-President Pittman will follow up with South Carolina College of Pharmacy Dean Joseph DiPiro.

Executive Vice-President Pittman presented a revised draft of the National Bylaws for discussion and received comments from the Executive Council on unresolved issues. He will further revise the Bylaws and send them to the Executive Council for approval. If approved by the Executive Council they would be sent to the member chapters for approval and could be implemented during the next academic year.

Executive Vice-President Pittman addressed the issue of dead links on the National Website, given that significant changes cannot be made until the implementation of the Society's new website in conjunction with the UNC School of Pharmacy. It was decided to remove references to dead links and replace with the statement "link not functional, contact National Office."

New Business: It was suggested that \$500 for travel for award recipients be built into the funding for awards. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve this.

The Executive Council discussed the appropriate way to honor Dr. Robert Buerki for his years of contributions to Rho Chi. President DeLander indicated that he intends to set up a committee to explore ways to recognize Society members for exceptional service.

The topic of international chapters was discussed, particularly with regard to Canadian schools. President DeLander indicated that he will be exploring this issue further. Dr. Robinson indicated that previously there seemed to be little interest on the part of Canadian pharmacy schools as Greek letter honor societies do not seem to have a significant presence in Canadian universities.

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President DeLander indicated that he will be authorizing an assessment of the Society during his term of office. He indicated that he envisioned an Argus-type commission.

The revision of the awards structure will be further discussed at the July 2006 Executive Council Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 am

Respectfully submitted,

Paul W. Jungnickel, Secretary