



## The Rho Chi Society

### Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting

Monday, March 29, 2004

Seattle, Washington

Members Present: Immediate Past President Daniel C. Robinson, President Gary P. Stoehr, President-Elect Gary E. DeLander, Past President J. Douglas Bricker, Historian Robert A. Buerki, Secretary Thomas L. Lemke, Executive Vice President A. Wayne Pittman.

Regional Councilors: Region I Councilor John R. Reynolds, Region II Councilor Dong-Churl Suh, Region II Outgoing Councilor (Region VIII Councilor) Anne Y. Lin, Region III Councilor Earlene Lipowski, Region IV Outgoing Councilor William C. Lubawy, Region VI Councilor Jonathan J. Wolfe, Region VII Councilor Nanci L. Murphy, Region VIII Outgoing Councilor Joanne Whitney

Student Representatives: Kimberly Clark, Student Region III, Adrienne Matson, Student Region IV, and Lisa Nguyen Student Region VII.

National Office Representative: Gail Moriarty

President Robinson opened the meeting and asked for approval of the minutes (July 19, 2003 and March 31, 2003). Minutes from both meetings were approved.

#### **Consideration of Reports**

1. President's Report: President Robinson will submit a written copy of his report within a week.
2. Executive Vice President's Report: Executive Vice President Pittman gave the Treasurer's Report for January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003. He indicated that the financial situation is still quite good as was indicated by the handout.
3. Nominating Committee: Past President Bricker had nothing to report at this time. (Immediate Past President Robinson will become the new chair along with the even numbered councilors).
4. Chapter Awards Committee - President Stoehr gave a short report indicating his desire to hold chapters accountable for submitting annual reports and proposals. Additional discussion followed about getting reports, etc. from chapters. Possible financial incentives were suggested. Development of a point system for meeting deadlines might be an incentive and those chapters reaching a certain number of points would receive appropriate recognition. For example, a certificate/plaque

could be awarded and possibly displayed in a college display as a form of recognition. A free registration for the APhA Meeting might be a good incentive or a combination of several of those mentioned might be considered.

5. Scholarship/Fellowship Committee - (No written report) Gary DeLander acknowledged his committee members and reported that there were a number of good candidates for both awards. Various changes were made in the evaluation selection with a decreased reliance on gpa and the use of other endpoints was considered. Previously, the gpa played a major role in the selection, but now other qualifications are taken into consideration. Award advertising through ACCP really helped. Faculty advisors could be quite useful in finding appropriate candidates for consideration. Associate Deans for Research might also be individuals who could be considered when looking for candidates. Previously, a GRE was required for the research award, but this is not now essential. Executive Vice President Pittman indicated that at UNC fellows could not accept scholarships due to concern about disparity among students (scholarships are not allowed as university policy). It appears that UNC is unique in that other schools do not have this problem.
6. National Faculty Advisor Award Committee - No report and no nominations have been received. Reminders will be sent to chapters. Initial announcements were sent via an e-mail to chapter presidents (September). Students many times don't see or understand the importance of nominating an advisor. Maybe a reminder sent with Society new member initiation materials would be helpful. Other listserv reminders might also be useful.
7. Lecture Award Committee - Anne Lin acknowledged committee members and indicated that three candidates have already been identified for the 2005 Lecture Award. A final report will be given in July.

### **Review of Luncheon and 80th Annual Meeting**

Attendance at this year's luncheon was 162 individuals (\$25.00/student will be underwritten by Rho Chi). The Lecture Award address will be published through the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education (AJPE). Previous manuscripts of the Rho Chi addresses will appear on the website of Rho Chi. The choice of the journal to which the Rho Chi Lecture manuscript is submitted is normally that journal which is most appropriate to the lecture topic. It was suggested that the announcement of award winners could be made at the luncheon even though the awards will actually be made during the business meeting. The additional acknowledgement might be nice.

Bob Buerki will spearhead development of a proposal to publish an anthology of previous Rho Chi Lecture Award addresses (1967 - 2004). Electronic means might be used, e.g., the Society's Website or a CD. Perhaps a CD or print version might create a source of revenue for the Society. Chapter-sponsored campus lectures could be included and thus more widely acknowledged. Joanne Whitney, Earlene Lipowski, Bob

Buerki, Wayne Pittman from the Society and Dennis Worthen, University of Cincinnati - will develop possibilities.

**Round Table Discussions:** President Robinson asked for suggestions about the process used during the round table discussions. Some thought that assigning topics earlier, such that the discussions could occur at home prior to the meeting, might result in a more productive discussion. The brainstorming format seemed to work well. This process might even be extended to regional meetings. The focused topics seem to have been a good idea.

### **New Business:**

**Regional Meetings:** Anne Lin shared with the Committee the development of the Region II gathering. Anne met with her Rho Chi president before their summer recess and talked about getting people together. Information about the meeting was sent to advisors during the summer and an agenda was mailed out early. The meeting was scheduled for a Saturday. Bob Buerki wondered if piggybacking the meeting along with an ASP Meeting would be better, but Anne indicated that they wanted Rho Chi to have its own meeting. Visiting the other schools really has appeal to the students (there was a suggestion that a virtual meeting could be attempted, but this would not allow site visitation). There will be a second meeting of Region II chapters at another campus in October so it appears the first meeting was successful.

It was pointed out that support for this kind of meeting could be requested from the National Office. Regional councilors would be responsible for initiating this type of program and maybe matching funds from the National Office or a specific sum of money could be allotted based upon how many chapters attended the meeting. These meetings should be kept separate from the National Awards. Some support appears to be possible and Regional Councilors are welcome/encouraged to consider submitting requests to the National Office for partial support. A motion was made and seconded that the Society Chi announce that funds are available (\$200/chapter attending) and see where it goes. Accountability in the form of a report about the accomplishments of the meeting will be required. Although there was concern about commitment of funding on the part of Rho Chi (\$16,000 if every chapter participated), a motion to implement a funding mechanism passed.

**Second-Year Graduate Scholarship Funding** - Wayne Pittman presented a request from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) for additional support from Rho Chi for our joint scholarship (\$2,400). Following discussion, a motion was made and passed that financial support in the form of an annual contribution to AFPE be increased from \$1,250 to \$2,500.

**Eligibility for Membership** - Wayne Pittman reported that one chapter encountered an eligibility problem in that 20 candidates for membership in Rho Chi had grade point averages of 4.0, but only 16 positions were open to be filled. A discussion of possible

solutions consisted of the suggestion that subjective measures might be taken, but this is very difficult to do. Also, the chapter could use an application process in which the candidates respond to specific items, which then could be used in the selection process (this is allowed in the by-laws). When a tie does occur that cannot otherwise be broken, a Dean or designee of that school may request permission to exceed the 20% limit in a letter to the National Office. A question was asked regarding what would be done at schools that are competency-based and everyone has the same grade point average. Wayne Pittman reported that the decision is usually shifted back to schools since the chapter is responsible for the selection process. At this point the Executive Council is unwilling to make any changes in the process for eligibility. The Executive Council may need to consider a maximum number of members in the case of a tie based upon g.p.a. This will be referred to the Constitution and By-laws Committee for further consideration.

**Assignment of Chapters to Regions:** Wayne Pittman opened the discussion of the problem regarding assignment of chapters to regions that has been encountered over time as new chapters have been established. As examples, Region 7 has a small number of chapters spread over a large area, while Region 3 has a large number of chapters thus under-representing chapters at the Executive Council level. Assignment of chapters to regions is presently defined in the Society's Constitution and requires amendment to add chapters or change regional assignment. The Council was presented with an example of how chapters might possibly be reassigned thus achieving nearer equitable representation. Utilization of the alignment used by ASP was discussed, but there was concern that locking Rho Chi in with another organization may not be wise. In the context of equitable representation, questions were raised about not only the number of chapters in a region, but also the number of individuals in each chapter.

A motion was made by Pittman and seconded that Sections (a), (b), and (c) of Article V of the Constitution be eliminated and that where Article V now reads, "Each Councilor shall represent a specific geographic district.," Article V be changed to read: "Regional Councilors shall represent specific geographic regions defined in concordance with national Pharmacy organizations such as the American Pharmacists Association (and its Academy of Students of Pharmacy) and/or the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and as specified by the Society's Executive Council."

In effect, approval of the proposed amendment will allow the Executive Council to make administrative changes in assignment of Chapters to specific regions consistent with those made by other Pharmacy organizations without the requirement of constitutional amendment each time a change is necessary. The effect can also be to facilitate equitable representation of chapters in the Executive Council. Following further discussion, the motion passed. The National Office was directed to seek approval of the constitutional amendment via email to 2004 National Convention Delegates.

**Privileges of "Members Elect":** A question was raised about how to handle the situation where new members are elected by the Rho Chi chapter, but are not immediately initiated. The old members leave campus and new members hold meetings and later are officially initiated. Are the new members allowed to carry out chapter business when they have not been initiated? Wayne Pittman pointed out that elected and initiated members are classified as two different groups (See Article 5, Section 1, paragraph D of the Constitution). Thus, the answer is that newly elected members cannot run the chapter until officially initiated. After the election these individuals are members-elect and they cannot run the business of the chapter. The discussion indicated that it probably really does not matter, except that the By-laws do indicate that this should not be done. Pittman suggested that the Executive Council could give approval to this chapter to operate under these conditions or the By-laws could be changed to deal with this problem. A motion was made and seconded that the issue be referred to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee for recommendation. (Look at wording in By-Laws and the use of the word **and** verses **should**). A discussion followed: Councilor Earlene Lipowski related the story about "official" honor societies and the possibility of scams related to initiating students into unofficial organizations. Universities are now looking at how to define official membership. The Constitution and By-laws Committee needs to be careful as they review the meaning of membership. The motion passed.

**Graduation Medallions:** Executive Vice President Pittman presented several options for graduation medallions for consideration by the Council. Although some universities may have guidelines about the use of medallions or honor cords, the availability of medallions provides an option to honor cords for use by local chapters.

**Installation of Gamma Rho Chapter:** A National Officer will need to install the new chapter and conduct the initial induction ceremony at Loma Linda University for their induction on May 23, 2004. Although Gary DeLander may be closer, he and Gary Stoehr will decide which one will attend and conduct the installation/induction. Anne Lin might also be able to attend as the new Region VIII Councilor.

President Stoehr indicated that he would like to have a retreat for the Executive Council on Friday afternoon prior to AACP Meeting in Salt Lake City. A number of topics were discussed as possible agenda items.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Lemke  
National Secretary