### Annual Chapter Report Outline

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

**Date of report submission:** 2017-05-15

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

**Chapter Name & region:** Omicron, Region 2

**Delegate who attended the Rho Chi Annual Meeting:** unfortunately APhA scheduling conflicts rendered us unable to send a delegate

**Date Delegate’s name submitted:** 2017-03-25

Past year's officers and e-mail addresses

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Historian

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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)

New officers and e-mail addresses

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Chapter advisor’s name and e-mail address

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

[chapter-advisors]

**Introduction**

This year, the Omicron chapter of Rho Chi continued to support students academically as well as honor those who have achieved exemplary grades and demonstrated admirable leadership skills. We hoped to increase involvement of both PharmD and Graduate members, and our future goals include securing new sponsors for our Induction Ceremony, initiating new fundraisers, and developing programs that further integrate our Graduate members into this organization.

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Attendance | Agenda | Action Steps |
| 2016-10-17 | 33 | introduction to the semester and future events | make committees and plan for fundraiser |
| 2017-02-13 | 20 | discussed events for the remainder of the semester, fundraising, and the Induction banquet | plan for the induction banquet, fundraiser tabling times |
| 2017-02-27 | 42 | congratulated new members, retrieved information needed for national and for initiation, and discussed officer positions | start process of elections |
| 2017-03-27 | 38 | remaining semester events, induction ceremony | induction ceremony finalizations, push for attending remaining semester events |

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

As an organization, we tried to reach out to students who may have been struggling by planning review sessions for courses the Office of Academic Affairs thought needed additional tutoring. At the beginning of the year, knowing that many third year pharmacy students struggle through our Pharmacotherapy course, we offered a valuable session incorporating P4 students who discussed how to succeed in the course. Recognizing academic achievement is one of our primary missions in this organization. We do so by planning the Dean’s List Dinner for those students who obtained a 3.25 GPA for both fall and spring semesters the year prior. The Dean also attends and opens the event by giving us words of wisdom and encouragement. We conclude the year with our Induction Banquet, where we are able to celebrate with close family and friends as our new members are recognized for their high academic achievement. We also recognize P2 students who were able to achieve a 4.0 GPA for their first year at the Induction Banquet. We reward them with a certificate of recognition as well as a book generously donated by one of the faculty at the school. Each semester, along with Phi Lambda Sigma, we run the nomination and voting for PharmD, graduate, and leadership Semester Scholars. These 3 students are recognized within the school and are awarded with a faculty-sponsored gift. Finally, throughout the year, we foster a culture of collaboration by having joint events with various other student organizations such as Phi Lambda Sigma, the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group, Student Government Association, the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists, and the American Pharmacists Association.

**Activities**

Honor Code Presentation – ongoing
(8/19/16): The Honor Code of the University Of Maryland School Of Pharmacy was originally drafted by the Omicron chapter in the 1990s. The Chapter President along with the SGA President presented the Honor Code to the incoming students during their Orientation week.

Pharmacotherapy Tips for Success – ongoing
(9/7/16): The Omicron chapter invited previous executive board members back to discuss tips about the Pharmacotherapy courses with current P3 students and go over a practice case.

PLS/Rho Chi Information Panel – new initiative
(9/8/16): The Omicron chapter collaborated with Phi Lambda Sigma to host an open informational panel for students who are interested in joining either organization. We organized this event because many students are not aware of the membership requirements or nomination process for induction into these organizations.

Faculty Appreciation Luncheon – ongoing
(10/26/16): The Omicron chapter collaborated with Phi Lambda Sigma to honor and celebrate all the hard work and dedication of the faculty members. Lunch was sponsored by the Student Government Association and members of both organizations mingled with the faculty members who attended. Students were invited to attend this event on a first-come, first-served basis.

Rho Chi Exam Review sessions – ongoing
(9/24/16, 10/6/16, 12/4/16, 2/15/17): The Omicron chapter held review sessions for P1 and P2 students in Principles of Drug Action, Pharmacokinetics, Applied Science and Therapeutics, and Infectious Diseases. Rho Chi members created study guides and Powerpoint presentations for each review session that were then distributed to all students through email. These were open forums for Rho Chi members to review important concepts and allow students to ask questions.

Clinical Pocket Guide Fundraiser – ongoing
(Fall and Spring semesters): The Omicron chapter sells clinical pocket guides from the UNC School of Pharmacy. These guides are conveniently sized to fit in the pocket of a white coat, and contain helpful information to use during rotations.

Healthy Halloween – ongoing
(10/28/16): Rho Chi joined CPNP to participate in Healthy Halloween. During this event, we dressed up in Halloween costumes and educated children about stress management techniques. We also helped them make their own, homemade stress balls out of balloons and sand.

Walgreens Immunization Clinics – new initiative
(October): Rho Chi and PDC members volunteered at several immunization clinics throughout the month of October to provide flu shots to members of the community. These events were organized by Walgreens.

Dean’s List Dinner – ongoing
(11/1/16): Rho Chi acknowledged PharmD and graduate students who earned a 3.25 GPA for both the fall and spring semester the previous academic year. They were honored at the campus student center with opening remarks by the Dean. They were then awarded a certificate, dinner and trivia sponsored by the Student Government Association.

Research Roundtable – ongoing
(11/10/16): The Omicron chapter collaborated with the Student Government Association and APhA-ASP to discuss the variety of research options available to pharmacy students. Faculty members and graduate students volunteered their time to attend this event and share their work with interested students. This event began with dinner and then a roundtable where students were able to learn more about specific faculty/graduate students’ research and were able to ask questions.

Paul’s Place – ongoing
(11/17/16): The Omicron chapter collaborated with the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group (PPAG) to volunteer at Paul's Place in Baltimore, MD.

Semester Scholars – ongoing
(Fall and Spring semesters): The Omicron chapter partnered with Phi Lambda Sigma to organize nominations and voting for Semester Scholars. Each semester, an outstanding student in leadership, academic achievement, and graduate affairs was nominated and then voted on by their peers. These students were then honored over email school wide and received an award.

PharmD T-Shirt Fundraiser – ongoing
(Spring semester): The Omicron chapter sells t-shirts with a PharmD periodic table design on the front..

UMB School of Pharmacy Logo Car Decal Fundraiser – new initiative
(Spring semester): The Omicron chapter initiated a new fundraiser to sell clear window decals picturing the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy name and logo. These stickers were designed to be placed on car windows.

Rho Chi Induction Banquet – ongoing
(4/7/17): An annual ceremony and banquet to formally induct the new members of the Omicron chapter into the honor society.

4.0 Book Awards – ongoing
(4/7/17): The Omicron chapter recognized P2 pharmacy students who achieved a 4.0 GPA during their first year at the University Of Maryland School Of Pharmacy at the Induction Banquet. They were given certificates of recognition and given an Opioid Conversion Calculations book, generously donated by one of the faculty members.

Ronald McDonald House – ongoing
(4/16/17): The Omicron chapter collaborated with the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group (PPAG) to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore, MD.

Out of the Darkness Walk – ongoing
(4/22/17): The Omicron chapter partnered with CPNP to attend the Out of the Darkness Walk to raise awareness for suicide prevention. This event was held by the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in Baltimore, MD.

**Financial Budgeting**

Our budget was modeled after the budgets from previous years. It is mostly developed by the Treasurer with approval from the rest of the executive board and Faculty Advisor. This year there were a couple of events that unfortunately affected our budget in a negative way. With the reorganization of the MPJE Law Review program, Rho Chi no longer makes money from this though it used to be our largest source of income. In addition, one of our usual sponsors for the Induction Ceremony was not able to donate any funding this year, which left us in a slight financial bind. Due to these changes, we developed a brand new fundraiser this year selling University of Maryland Window Decals for students to place on their cars, and we continued our PharmD T-Shirt fundraiser as well as our Clinical Pocket Guide Fundraiser. These programs were not able to completely make up for the losses in funding, so we hope that next year’s executive board is able to continue them, improve them, and come up with new fundraising ideas.

**Installation Function**

The Induction Banquet was held on Friday, April 7, 2017 at the Belvedere Hotel in Baltimore, MD. Over 70 new members (30 PharmD students, 10 graduate students, 6 faculty), family, and friends attended. The night started with a cocktail hour followed by a 3-course dinner. The night continued with our keynote speaker, Dr. Andrew Coop. Dr. Coop, PhD, is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Maryland. Previously, he served as Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences for 8 years. A basic scientist who embraces interdisciplinary approaches to solving problems with drug abuse, he described UMB425 as a novel opioid analgesic with lower abuse liability than morphine, resulting in his co-founding of ALT Pharmaceuticals to commercialize the therapeutic. The potential of UMB425 has led to coverage in the mainstream media, including The Atlantic, Smithsonian, Baltimore Sun, and Washington Post. He has been officially recognized for his achievements through receipt of the Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award from the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD). He is a Fellow of both CPDD and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), and was honored to receive the James E. Wynn Memorial Award from the Chemistry Section of the American Associate of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) in 2014. The speech was followed by the Initiation Ritual, where new member names were announced and signed their names in the Omicron chapter’s membership book, which contained the signatures of all Chapter members since its chartering in 1930.The Induction was graciously sponsored by Walgreens Pharmacy.

**Evaluation/Reflection**

Rho Chi wanted to continue its focus on exam review sessions this year due to our prioritization of academic excellence. We believe we did so by holding reviews for both P1 and P2 class years. The VP of Academic Affairs even developed a brand new review session for the P2 Infectious Diseases class, which took a significant amount of work. In addition, we continued our collaborations with SGA, APhA-ASP, CPNP, PPAG, and PLS to participate in community service events such as Paul’s Place, Healthy Halloween, the Out of the Darkness Walk, and the Ronald McDonald House, and school events such as the Honor Code Presentation, Research Roundtable, and Faculty Appreciation Luncheon. We also organized new events including the Rho Chi/PLS Information Panel and the Walgreens Immunization Days with PDC. In addition, we successfully implemented a new Car Decal fundraiser this year. We have many leftover decals that we have already paid for, so next year’s executive board will be able to sell them for pure profit. Our induction banquet was held at a beautiful hotel and we received positive feedback about the location from those who attended. Some suggestions for improvement in the future would be to continue to search for new sponsors for our Induction Ceremony, as this is that largest expenditure of the year. We would also love to see new fundraisers in addition to the 3 that we already hold each year. In addition, we have suggested changing the setting of the Dean’s List Dinner to next year’s executive board. Each year, this event is less well attended and the feedback we have received about the event is mediocre. We think that converting this event to a more casual barbecue style setting or dessert buffet might garner more interest. Finally, we would look to see more involvement of Rho Chi members in the future. We currently have a requirement that each member participates in at least one event per semester, but this is not usually achieved as Rho Chi members, as academic leaders, often have several other organization, research, and school commitments. We have clearly communicated these suggestions with the incoming executive board and we have kept all of our resources extremely organized for their use next year, so we believe that they will be able to make some of these improvements over the course of the next year.

**Other Information**

N/A