Annual Chapter Report – 2016-2017

Please complete your Annual Chapter Report and submit it to the National Office via e-mail (RhoChi@unc.edu) by May 15.

Date of report submission: May 11, 2017

Name of School/College: Western New England University

Chapter name and region: Epsilon Iota Chapter, Region I

Chapter advisor’s name and e-mail address: Dr. Marissa Ostroff, Marissa.ostroff@wne.edu

Delegate who attended the Rho Chi Annual Meeting: Advisor Dr. Marissa Ostroff

Date delegate’s name submitted to Rho Chi: approximately March 20, 2017

Past (current) year’s officers and email addresses:

President: Jessica LeClair, jessica.leclair@wne.edu

Vice President: Christy LaPlante, christy.laplante@wne.edu

Secretary: Elizabeth LaRose, elizabeth.larose@wne.edu

Treasurer: Austin Percy, austin.percy@wne.edu

Historian: Brittany Dickhaus, brittany.dickhaus@wne.edu

New officers and email addresses for next academic year: New officers will be elected at the induction ceremony on October 2, 2017

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

All students are in the College of Pharmacy program

Total number of Rho Chi student members: 28

Brittney Amaral, 2017

Jacob Booth, 2017

Courtney Brown, 2017

Kevin Ehl, 2017

Kimberly Han, 2017

Farbod Khaleghi, 2017

Christopher Krupa, 2017

Adam Leecock, 2017

Stacy Longo, 2017

Rebecca Marcinak, 2017

Daniel Poe, 2017

Sarah Stevens, 2017

Erika Vuernick, 2017

Lindsay Worthmann, 2017

Nicole Bucci, 2018

Clayton Cassone, 2018

Brittany Dickhaus, 2018

Patrick Fugler, 2018

Stephanie Guay, 2018

Christy LaPlante, 2018

Elizabeth LaRose, 2018

Jessica LeClair, 2018

Austin Percy, 2018

Pegah Shakeraneh, 2018

Nicole Silengo, 2018

Whitney Stubbs, 2018

Michelle Tran, 2018

Jessica Zewski, 2018

**Meetings**: Provide information on meetings held in the following tabular format

(Limit 1.5 page)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Attendance | Agenda | Action Steps |
| 10/25 | Officer MeetingDr. Ostroff, Brittany Dickhaus, Jessica LeClair, Elizabeth LaRose, Austin Percy | Reviewed and finalized by-laws,Reported this meeting to faculty, Discussed semester fees and balances for accounts, community service, promoting awareness of the organization, fundraisers, 2017 induction ceremony, feedback | Each member will brainstorm more community service ideas |
| 1/20/17 | Full Chapter MeetingClayton Cassone, Brittany Dickhaus, Patrick Fugler, Stephanie Guay, Jessica LeClair, Christy LaPlante, Elizabeth LaRose, Austin Percy, Pegah Shakeraneh, Nicole Silengo, Whitney Stubbs, Michelle Tran, Jessica Zewski | Reviewed presentation plan for IPC Tip event for the PY2 class,Discussed counseling pearls,Reviewed by-laws | Create PowerPoint for presentation |
| 2/28/17 | Officer MeetingDr. Ostroff, Brittany Dickhaus, Jessica LeClair, Christy LaPlante, Elizabeth LaRose, Austin Percy | Reviewed counseling pearl deadlines,Discussed apparel,Planned community service events,Discussed amendments to bylaw,Discussed summer assignments | Create counseling pearls’ deadline, sign up for community service events |
| 4/6/17 | Full Chapter Meeting  Dr. Ostroff, Brittany Dickhaus, Jessica LeClair, Christy LaPlante, Elizabeth LaRose, Austin Percy, Nicole Bucci, Clayton Cassone, Patrick Fugler, Stephanie Guay, Pegah Shakeraneh, Nicole Silengo, Whitney Stubbs, Michelle Tran, Jessica Zewski  | Reviewed counseling pearls feedback,Discussed the events from the National Meeting,Discussed plan of action for community service events,Discussed possibility of APPE tips program,Bylaw amendment for loss of membership,Possible pocket guide fundraiser,Discussed next year's induction ceremony | Prepare stations for mini health fairBegin planning induction ceremony |

**Strategic Planning**: What goals were set that relate to the Rho Chi mission? (Limit 0.5  page)

The Chapter’s mission is to recognize and encourage intellectual achievement and high standards of moral character. Our Chapter strived to instill this in others throughout the college of pharmacy. One goal was to instill achievement and success in academics throughout student’s pharmacy career. We did this by putting on a Rho Chi Tips presentation for tips to succeed in new courses as well as addressing any questions other students had about their future classes. The Chapter also encourages professional contact and advocates for continued personal and professional growth. We worked toward this goal through service events such as our mini health fair at the Wellington at Springfield Assisted Living Facility. At this event we were able to stimulate professional growth through interacting with patients at various stations measuring BMIs, taking blood pressures, and answering questions residents had regarding their medications or health conditions. We also wanted to raise awareness of our new chapter to ensure all students are familiar with our activities and missions. We achieved this goal by ordering apparel with our chapter name and the Rho Chi emblem to proudly represent Rho Chi and spread our mission with others.

**Activities**:  This section is usually the primary focus of the report.  The chapter reports should contain detailed descriptions of all activities developed and conducted to further the society’s mission (See Appendix 1 for Chapter Activities Report Template). It may contain a combination of activities within the college and/or university as well as activities that provide outreach outside the academic community.  School-wide events that provide evidence of intellectual leadership (e.g., a sponsored lecture, symposium, poster session, etc.) may be included.  Service activities for non-members such as tutoring may be included.  It is recommended that students also provide at least one community service activity outside of the academic institution (e.g., volunteering at a long-term care facility, providing health information to patients/citizens in the community, etc.) provided that it is consistent with the mission of the Rho Chi Society.  The description must include whether these activities are ongoing (if so, for how long) or are new initiatives. (Limit 1500 words)

The Epsilon Iota Chapter of the Rho Chi Society had a busy and exciting first full-term year! All of the described activities are new initiatives, as this is the first full year that the Epsilon Iota chapter has been active at Western New England University and we hope that they will become annual ongoing events. On January 24th and 27th, 2017 members of the chapter gave a presentation for the second year pharmacy learners with tips on how to do their best in the IPC & PM courses, which are short 2-6 week module courses that begin the spring semester of the second year of pharmacy school. The presentation last about an hour and focused on what to expect in upcoming classes, how to best prepare, and overall tips for success. Then they were given the opportunity to ask the Rho Chi members any questions that they had. Another unique event that was started on March 20th, 2017 by our chapter was a counseling pearls email program. Three days a week (MWF), a new drug or drug class was explained in a brief email, giving important counseling pearls and pertinent information about the drug to interested learners and professors. We received positive feedback about the program and are continuously working to improve it to best serve our peers. For example, a few weeks into the program, we began including a PDF file each Friday with an all-inclusive list of the counseling pearls that were sent out so that students could reference the document more easily than individual emails in the future. This program will pick back up in the fall and conclude prior to the induction ceremony in October, and then it will be up to next year’s officers and members to continue the program. Recommendations we have brainstormed are to continue where we left off on the list of the top 100 drugs or to cover over the counter drug counseling for next year. Beyond academic activities, our chapter also hosted two service opportunities for members to benefit seniors in the local community. The members of Rho Chi Society and preceptors hosted a mini health fair at The Wellington at Springfield on April 29th, 2017 from 12:00-4:00 pm. Members operated stations that included a BMI calculator, blood pressure readings, a health related bingo game, and “ask a pharmacist”. The BMI station had a total of 16 interactions, 20 seniors had their blood pressure measured, and 12 questions were asked at the “ask a pharmacist” station. Throughout the entire health fair, 14 seniors enjoyed playing bingo that was a unique “portion-sized bingo” that included clues about healthy food options that the seniors matched to the appropriate food.  We also hosted a Brown Bag event at The Mayflower Senior Center on May 11th, 2017 where seniors brought all of their medications to discuss any questions or concerns with Rho Chi members and preceptors. We interacted with a total of 8 senior citizens and had beneficial one-on-one discussions about their medications, conditions, and overall health. It was an excellent learning experience not only for the senior citizens but for the students as well. We are also excited to wear our new apparel including a zip-up jacket, baseball t-shirt, and graduation stole containing the Rho Chi symbol to spread awareness and pride of this organization! We hope that all of these events and more will be continued in the future, as they were successful and enjoyable activities.

**Financial/ Budgeting**: Provide information on how your budget was determined and approved and how it supported your chapter’s activities. Include information on fundraising that was conducted to meet this budget. (Limit 250 words)

As our chapter is relatively new to the society, our budget was determined primarily on the proportions of money that were spent during the prior year on similar events. This year, a ledger was devised to better track money flow in and out of our accounts, so that it may be more easily displayed to members and advisors. The amount of spending for novel events such as the mini health fair was discussed prior to purchasing materials needed to create posters, props, or prizes. The planning of our induction ceremony for next year will involve matching or reducing costs. All purchases are discussed among the officers with our advisor, and the chapter before being acted on. The most significant purchase this year was apparel and stoles for current members. While not aimed to be a fundraiser, some profit will be made once the majority of the apparel has been sold in the future. Aside from travel reimbursement, our chapter does not spend a substantial amount of money, so significant fundraising was forgone this year. Ideas for fundraising have been collaborated on by members, such as business card holders and informational pharmacy clipboards, but these will ultimately be initiated in the upcoming year by future officers to increase the scope of our chapter’s funding and activities.

**Initiation Function**: Describe the initiation function, including when and where it took place, who attended it (not specific names), information on the speaker (if applicable), etc.  (Limit 250 words)

The induction ceremony was held on October 3rd, 2016 at the Munich Haus restaurant in Chicopee, MA. Those in attendance included the 14 newly inducted members, the 5 officers from the previous year, our advisor, Dr. Marissa Ostroff, and other faculty members who are also Rho Chi members. Dean Evan Robinson, the Dean and Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, spoke at the induction ceremony to congratulate all new members and thank the chapter for inducting him as a faculty inductee. We plan on having our future induction ceremony on October 2, 2017 at the same location, Munich Haus restaurant.

**Evaluation/Reflection**: Provide a reflective paragraph that evaluates the effectiveness of your activities and ways to improve. (Limit 500 words)

The new programs that we organized and hosted this year were successful, but there is always room for improvement. For the Rho Chi Tips for second year pharmacy learners, there were scheduling conflicts while determining the best time to host this event. We decided to host it on two separate days to allow more students to attend, but unfortunately one of those times overlapped with elective classes and limited attendance. We recommend planning this event in advance and advertising for longer periods of time via fliers, emails, and social media. Another similar program we are recommending for the future is a Rho Chi Tips event for third year pharmacy learners just prior to beginning rotations that would be hosted by the fourth year Rho Chi members. On a separate note, the Rho Chi Counseling pearls received excellent feedback from multiple administrators, professors, and students. There were also many suggestions made for improvements that we have discussed and will share with future officers to ensure the program is as useful as possible. Students did have the option to opt out of the program and out of the 296 students who were initially included, only 4 opted out throughout the spring semester. Surveys to gauge students’ preferences about the counseling pearls may be useful in the future to further improve this program. Finally, the mini health fair service event we hosted was successful, but may be improved in future years by including more activities for the seniors. There was a limited amount of space in the room that the health fair was hosted, so it may be best to determine which stations are most intriguing and engaging to the seniors and focus on making those the best they can be. The seniors enjoyed getting handouts or anything to take with them, so in the future each station can offer something such as a simple food log or stress ball. We offered prizes from the bingo station and handouts at the “ask a pharmacist” station but more may be done next year to give to interested seniors.

**Other information**:  If you would like to provide other information about your chapter that was not included in the above categories (e.g., development of a new website, organizing a regional meeting, etc.), add it here: (Limit 500 words) N/A