

Pre-S.C.R.I.P.T.
UNM's Pre-Pharmacy Society
Meeting Minutes

Date: January 30, 2008
Location: SUB, Ballroom A
Presiding: Amina Akhil
Recorder: Emily Goulding

5:35pm

Amina Akhil, Pre-Script President, began the Pre-Pharmacy Society meeting. Troy Russell is the member-at-large for APhA-ASP. He spoke about the association. It is one of the only pharmacy organizations you can join as a pre-pharmacy student. They provide health screenings for the community, among many other services they offer. Kim Neff is the President of APhA at the UNM College of Pharmacy. Troy thanked everyone for their professionalism at the screenings. There will be a chapter meeting tomorrow (January 31, 2008) from 12:00-1:00 in room B15 at the UNM College of Pharmacy. Everyone is welcome to come. Also, there will be a health screening Sunday February 10th. It will be very quick; from 7:00-8:00am. More information will come.

5:37pm

Dr. Megan Thompson, Director of Student Services, introduced herself. She encouraged students to introduce themselves to her. She wants to help everyone along with the application process. She spoke briefly about the level of professionalism at the health screenings. In previous years, the College of Pharmacy hadn't given much direction or instructions to students on how to dress. Last weekend at a health screening, she received overwhelmingly positive remarks about the professionalism of the students. She encouraged students to keep it up, and dress nicely. It reflects well on the pharmacy school as well as the profession. If you have any questions about attire, you can email Dr. Thompson.

5:40pm

Dr. Nancy Heideman was introduced. She works in a pediatric oncology unit and teaches at the UNM College of Pharmacy. The pharmacy school needs standardized patients for the upcoming OSCEs. OSCE stands for Observed Standardized Clinical Exam. Pre-pharmacy students act as patients for third year pharmacy students. The next OSCE will be February 26-29 (Tuesday-Friday) from 1:00-4:00pm. Please sign up if you can help out during any of these times/days. Students will be in exam rooms, and instructors watch via video cameras in a separate room. You will be sent a script to read and memorize. The students will ask you questions, and you respond as though you are a real patient. If you are interested in volunteering, email Dr. Heideman at nheideman@salud.unm.edu

5:55pm

Krystal Weaver, coordinator for student advisement at the College of Pharmacy spoke about applications and conducted a Q&A session. She urged students to hit submit if they have not already done so. You can either mail in the supplemental fee/photo, or you can walk it into the College of Pharmacy. It needs to be postmarked by February 1 for the mail, or turned in by Friday February 1, at 5:00pm at College of Pharmacy.

Q: Should you wait for your Letters of Recommendation to e-submit?

A: No, go ahead and submit it. It will take 4-6 weeks to process your application anyway, so if the reference hasn't submitted by February 1, that's okay. Keep checking though, and remind them if they need.

Q: Is it a problem if I sent my PCAT scores to UNM, not PharmCAS?

A: That's okay; it just takes longer to process.

Q: What is the interview like?

A: Your interview will either be on a Friday from 1:00-5:00(ish) or Saturday from 7:45-1:30 (ish). First they will talk about curriculum and the UNM College of Pharmacy. They will feed you breakfast or lunch. This gives you time to breathe and to talk to current students. Then, there is a 30 minute writing exercise in which you will give your opinion about a provided topic. The idea is to test whether you can write a coherent essay. Next you will have your interview or you will take a tour. Also, there is a financial aid workshop and an optional tour of the research building. The interview is 30 minutes. There will be a member of admissions committee and guest interviewer.

Q: What are the numbers like for this year?

A: Can't give out that information.

Q: Is the essay similar to that on the PCAT?

A: Somewhat, yes. You will use pen, but you can cross things out. Make sure to go back and proofread. You will get a blue book with a spare piece of paper used for an outline or whatever you would like. The sheets are never seen by the admissions committee.

Q: Are there rolling admissions this year?

A: For in-state applicants, no. Everyone will hear in May, around Memorial Day.

Q: Are Spring grades tallied in?

A: They'll be updated into your GPA and given to committee for their final meeting. This takes place the week after finals. Spring grades get factored in quite a bit

Q: Do you get a letter no matter what?

A: Everyone gets a letter. Once your file is complete, you will be sent an email from Dr. Godwin. Then, the file goes to committee and they will decide if you

will get an interview. You should hear by end of April in the mail. You will not be notified until your file is complete

7:35pm

Meeting adjourned.