

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

Date: October 3, 2007

Location: SUB Acoma A

Presiding: Amina Akhil

Recorder: Emily Goulding

6:59pm

Amina Akhil, Pre-Script President, began the second Pre-Pharmacy Society meeting. She introduced Venkat R Nagaswami, a staff member from Career Services.

7:00pm

Venkat R Nagaswami, spoke about his background. He recently started working for UNM. He has previous experience in the engineering field. He explained that resumes do not differ from medicine to engineering.

7:04pm

Mr. Nagaswami began his PowerPoint presentation on resume building. Click below for the complete PowerPoint.

[Resume PowerPoint Presentation](#)

7:21pm

Mr. Nagaswami gave additional information on interviewing:

- Always dress up, even if you're not sure
- It is better to be overdressed than underdressed
- Wear a business suit if possible
- Be 10-15 minutes early (not an hour!)
- The day prior to your interview find the location prepare your mind
- Always have a bottle of water (it is not rude to drink during the interview)

In most interviews, if you have a degree, the interviewers know that you know the information. They will ask you technical and behavioral questions (Who you are? Introvert vs. extrovert? Would you bring harmony to the group?) They might ask technical questions, but focus on behavioral type questions.

7:28pm

Dr. Megan Thompson, Pharm D, Director of Student Services at the UNM College of Pharmacy, discussed aspects of the interview for UNM's pharmacy school. They will ask you behavioral and technical questions. Interviewers may ask what your favorite class is. If you say organic chemistry, be prepared to answer a question about organic chemistry. If organic chemistry is not your favorite class, do not say it is. Your favorite class does not have to be a science class. Interviews will ask follow up questions, so be prepared to back up an answer. The interview is worth 50% of your entire application. If you need a

moment to answer a question, you can ask for time to think. The interview will consist of two interviewers, one interview member of the admissions committee and one guest interviewer (no group interviews). There are 10-13 committee members. Guest interviewers can be community pharmacists, current students, staff faculty at CoP, alums, etc.

7:30pm

Krystal Weaver, coordinator for student advisement at the College of Pharmacy, added that during the interview they want to find out if students really want to go to pharmacy (not that they were rejected from medical school). They want to know why you chose pharmacy school. Have a reason why you're interested in pharmacy.

7:36pm

Mr. Nagaswami spoke about mock interviews. Career Services offers it to all students at UNM. They have a video room. They act as though it is an actual interview. You will come dressed up and they will videotape the mock interview so you can see how you perform.

- Walk in and shake hands
- Have confidence in yourself
- Have a copy of your resume for the interviewer
- Make eye contact

Typically, interviews start the interview by asking you to tell them about yourself. Talk about your strengths that are applicable to the job. Interviewers are interested in the *content* of your answer.

7:50pm

Amina introduced Kim Neff, a third year pharmacy student.

7:50pm

Kim Neff is the President of APhA-ASP. She thanked students for help at the health screenings that have been held this year. She urged students to get involved by helping at health screenings. As pre-pharmacy students, we can take height, weight, BMI, and blood pressure at screenings. This is a free service to people that do not have money to see a doctor.

7:52pm

Kim announced the new APhA-member-at-large: Troy Russell.  
Congratulations Troy!

7:52pm

Kim gave information about the JDFR Halloween Carnival. There will be set-up Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-10:00pm; come as you want. Additional set-up will begin at 10:00am the next morning. The carnival will be held Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-7:00pm. You can be part of the haunted house, help out with games, etc. The carnival is for kids with or without diabetes. There are games to play, food to eat, prizes, and candy. Come dress up, and help clean up after! If you have any questions, contact Troy or Kim.

7:57pm

Krystal reminded everyone that the deadline for the UNM College of Pharmacy is February 1, 2008. Start your application now! Items you can send later include: Letters of Recommendation, PCAT scores, and academic updates for current and spring classes. Once you have submitted your application you cannot change schools or your statement of purpose. You need 2in X 2in headshot only. A good PCAT score: entering class average ~71<sup>st</sup> percentile, but 50<sup>th</sup> percentile is okay (20<sup>th</sup> and lower is bad). Your PCAT scores are good for 3 years.

8:04pm

Charles Byrnes, Kaplan Test Preparation Representative, informed students of a practice PCAT test on Saturday, October 20th from 2:00-4:00pm. Call 884-8880 to sign up for test. There is a pre-health fair November 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be representatives from the medical school, dental school, and PA school.

8:08pm

Bernadette Aragon, Pre-Script Vice-President, discussed Habitat for Humanity. She asked what day(s) would work best for people. It will be sometime in November either on a Saturday or Sunday. More information will follow.

8:09pm

Meeting adjourned.