Rehabilitation Sciences Student Executive Committee Minutes

Date: October 6, 2020

Time: 4:00, Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Kim, Kohle, Smruthi, Gordon, Christy, Myrah, Jasmin, Cristina, Joanne

Regrets: Jessie, Bill

Minute Taker: Thalia

Agenda:

1. **Approval of Past Minutes**

* Kim, Christy

1. **Approval of Agenda**

* Cristina, Christy

1. **New members**

* Kohle, Joanne, Smruthi – welcome!

1. **Professional Development (Cristina)**
   1. Review “How to be an Academic” plan

* Aiming to do the event in November
* Goal: Info for navigating grad school through the lens of RHSC
  + Knowing about our local resources (e.g., VCHRI, ICORD, etc)
    - Awards available through them
    - Networking with clinicians
  + Breaking it down into 2 categories
    - Online presence
    - On-paper presence
* Cristina: we could condense the information we are thinking about for the presentation to stay online… maybe in a blog format. That might be more helpful for students.
* Question: what format is optimal? Live presentation or online blog?
  + Brainstorm:
    - Kim: A blog could replace the newsletter, where we share one topic every month or so
    - Smruthi: We could send a survey with questions that new students have and a follow-up with a FAQ that new students can work through with their mentors
    - Christy: would be good to have information to draw people to the website. Current problem with updating website through the department takes too long. If we want to do an RSEC “information from students by students”, it might be most efficient to do it ourselves.
    - Myrah: would be good to have info about students all in one place that could be used to promote on social media.
    - Department started tracking publications, but they stopped publishing this information… might be good to take it back.
    - Gordon: online format would be good to make constant updates. We could also do an interactive iKT format for the presentation where we have interviews/focus groups to find out what is the most important thing for students to know.
    - Jasmin: might be hard to get buy-in from students… we have to build interest in RSEC first. Would be good to engaging people outside of us to make decisions, but in the online environment this might be a challenge. Without buy-in, effort might be wasted in these initiatives.
    - Koehle: whatever the format is, the value-add of whatever we do should be the student experience 🡪 “what we wish we knew earlier in our degree”
  + Conclusion:
    - All members are in favour of having an in-person live event this fall
      * Broad topic: “what RHSC students should know at the beginning of their degree”
      * Cristina will poll mentors for issues that have come up so they can be included in the event
* Alternative workshop topics to consider later on:
  + defense/comprehensive exam preparation
  + how to build your thesis committee

1. **Budget (Thalia)**
   1. How much should we allocate for events?

* Questions we need to clarify
  + What is the initial budget?
  + What dollar amount should we allocate to the welcome budget?
  + Where does the money come from?
* Thalia and Gordon to work on this

1. **Social (Myrah)**

* Myrah: trivia was fun, but still need more buy-in from students
* Jasmin: post-docs hangouts were well attended and fun

1. **Next Meeting**

* 3rd of Nov