PSI CHI/UPO Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2014

**Introduction**

* Jordan Kugler (PSI CHI/UPO President) opened the meeting.
  + Today we will cover faculty perspectives on Graduate School application.
  + We have a new Facebook group for UNL Psi ChiUPO.
  + @UNLPsiChi\_UPO is our Twitter account.
  + Psi Chi membership dues are $65 ($10 local/$55 international)

**Jeff Stevens (Neuroscience and Behavior)**

* Received his PhD in Biology
  + There are alternative routes to Psychology Graduate Study
* Your media footprint (Google, Facebook, etc.) matters.
  + Many prospective advisors will take these into account.
* What programs generally look for in a potential student:
  + Someone who has specific research interests (someone who has questions and interests that they would like to pursue)
  + Someone who has research experience.
    - Getting connected into a Research Lab is important to develop interests and make connections with faculty.
    - Having a breadth of interests and experiences will look good for you as an applicant.
  + Each program has different standards when it comes to GRE scores and GPA requirements.
    - There is no universal standard.
    - Dependent upon program/advisor.
* What he specifically looks for in a student.
  + Someone who has more specific interests.
  + What the professors have to say in the recommendation letters about the student specifically.

**Anne Schutte (Developmental, Cognitive)**

* Getting to know your professors is important
  + Those who make the time to sit down and talk to professors will have stronger letters of recommendation.
* Research experience is huge.

**Deb Hobe (Clinical)**

* Clinical Programs in general
  + Experiences that demonstrate that you have good interpersonal skills (e.g. volunteering for 3 weeks)
    - Having multiple experiences is not as important as having a quality experience.
  + Research experience is very important.

*Questions:*

* *Is being involved in more than one lab important?*
  + Multiple labs are not as important as the quality of the experiences that you are receiving.
  + Having one strong letter is most important.
* *What kind of experiences is most important?*
  + More independent experiences where you are helping in presentations and conferences
* *What did your experiences in grad school look like?*
  + Anne got her PhD at University of Iowa
    - Had a lot of Lab Experiences
  + Jeff received degree at UNL
    - Was more involved in Biological research.
  + Dr. Hope
    - Had experience running Undergradute Studies
    - Also had clinical experiences working in the Anxiety Clinic
* *Is having your undergrad and Gradute experience at the same university a negative thing?*
  + It depends on your situation.
  + You should explore different programs, but if your interests fit best where you are, then you should apply to that program.
  + For clinical programs, it isn’t as important what your research experiences/interests were in Undergrad, but that you had experiences working with research in general.
  + Cognitive and Devlopmental programs look for more overlap in your interests and the programs that you are applying for.
  + Contacting people that you may want to work with may be a good initial contact when looking at some faculty (may not be important for others).
    - Be sure to check the website before you contact the person to make sure that you are not being redundant.
    - Sometimes there are hundreds of emails and yours may not be answered.
  + Going to conferences are great ways to meet faculty and gradute students and to get a look at their programs
* *What stands out in a application to Clinical programs?*
  + It should be well-written, as those tend to stand out as examples of your writing ability.
  + Address the prompt as to why you are applying (try to avoid extraneous details).
  + Be professional (Do not over-disclose personal details).  The way in which you portray yourself in interactions may determine whether you are a candidate or not.