9/17 Meeting Minutes

- Dr. Abbott is our PDS advisor (his office is also in TLS)
- Dr. Abbott needs volunteers for this Sat. (9/21) for a pre-health (med & dental) open house event (10-11am & 11-12pm) in the Student Union ballroom (3rd floor)
    - 1+ officer & 1-2 members to speak about the benefits of PDS membership and reasons for choosing UConn to pursue a pre-dental track
    - Parents & students may come up and speak to you/ask you questions after the event
    - Very low-commitment
    - Good opportunity for public speaking
    - More info will be sent out in an email
    - If interested, let Ryan (our PDS president know) after the meeting or via email (ryan.higgins@uconn.edu)
- This year, we're aiming to have members create more connections among each other/use each other as resources
- Types of meetings:
    - General meetings: how to apply to dental school, DAT prep resources, volunteer work
    - Professional meetings: speakers from UConn Dental come in and speak
- Service opportunities: collaborations with the Red Cross Club, oral health presentations with local schools, CTMOM (free dental clinic)
- Academic opportunities: Yankee Dental Conference, Passport to Dentistry (will send an email about it later on; there is an application)
    - If you're looking to apply to the UConn School of Dental Medicine, Passport to Dentistry is a great opportunity (they *highly* encourage that you participate in it)
        - Best to do it early on (i.e. freshman/sophomore)
- Academic members must pay dues once a year (typically ~ $25)
    - Goes toward PDS shirts, food, supplies for events
    - **Dues due by 10/8** (must be paid to be considered an active member)
- To be considered an active member, you must attend 4+ meetings a semester and at least 9 meetings an academic year
    - If you can't make it to meetings, email us for alternative ways to maintain active membership status
- Attendance is taken using UConntact
- We are still working with UConn Dental to draft our schedule for the semester, but it's a rotation between general and professional meetings
    - Some professional (guest lecture) meetings won't be on Tuesdays; we will always email you about this
- We are sponsored by DAT Bootcamp (a DAT prep material)
    - We supply you with a discount code (only given to active members, who have exhibited active membership since this semester)
- We are always open to critique and feedback about what you need from PDS meetings
    - You can come up to us after meetings or email us at uconnpredent@gmail.com

- It’s important to have a strong service record for dental school
    - E.g. CTMOM (free dental clinic in the spring; we’ll send more info as it gets closer)
    - Can be non-dental related service too
- Also, it’s important to have leadership experience
    - E.g. running for an e-board position in a student org
- We may be creating a Big Brother/Sister program between underclassmen (freshmen/sophomores) and upperclassmen (juniors/seniors) in PDS, e.g. for DAT, class, and application advice
- Volunteer opportunity: tutoring an elementary student over Skype once a week (Invictus Institute)
    - If you have any questions, ask Mishil after the meeting or email him at mishil.nana@uconn.edu