**Meeting Minutes - October 22, 2018**

* How has dental school been so far for D1’s?
  + D1 year has been a huge adjustment from undergrad. Everything is more difficulty and school is the biggest part of my life.
* How is the D1 school year different than senior year of undergrad?
  + I feel like we’re always busy with school. Classes start at 8 am and end at 4:30 pm every single day. We learned to manage time more efficiently because many times we have to watch videos before class starts or already know a topic before class starts. Good advice: be on time with your school work during the week so that you can enjoy part of your weekend. The entire week before and exam is straight studying.
* How is D1/D2 different than D3/D4
  + D1 and D2 are a lot of heavy learning and we’re quizzed on the material and the classes are exam heavy. Basically, the first 2 years are rigorous coursework. D3/D4 is more of clinical hours working under faculty supervision.
* Do the D3/D4 have dental assistants?
  + There is 1 dental assistant per 20 students, so it’s better to help yourself instead of waiting for help. Sometimes D1/D2 students can be assistants for D3/D4 students.
* How do board exams work?
  + So this is the last year in which all D2 students and above have to take 2 board exams. Now, there will only be 1 board exam after D3 year.
* Why did they recently change the boards?
  + Most schools only used 1 board exam after the D3 year, so it was easier to be on the same schedule.
* Do all dental students major in a science class?
  + No, there are some dental students that majored in public health, integrates health sciences, psychology, English, Spanish, and business. All that matters is that you do well in your required coursework for dental school.
* Can you talk about the interview process?
  + You get an email and schedule your own interview if you are invited to be interviewed. You will either have 1 or 2 interviews. They ask basic questions like why you want to be a dentist, tell me about yourself, did you do any research, etc. Every school has some sort of ethics question. UIC is a closed file interview school, which means the interviewers do not know your class grades or DAT score. If you have a question, don’t be afraid to ask the interviewer.
* How many schools did most of you apply to?
  + The students usually applied to 3-13 schools with an average of 10 schools.
* Do you have any tips for undergrads?
  + Take anatomy, its super useful! Be a well-rounded student and try to stand out. Be active in a few different organizations.
* Tell us more about your schedule
  + We have a one hour break every day, we don’t get summers off but get 2 weeks off between seasons, and school is usually everyday 8 am- 4pm. We take 21 credit hours separated into 2 classes then further separated into many subdivisions. 92-100 is an A. Some of the subdivision classes are pass/fail.
* How has your studying changed?
  + Now, we can’t just memorize to learn the material we actually have to understand it and apply it. We can’t cram material and usually study for a single exam for weeks.
* Why did you pick UIC over other schools?
  + UIC has such great clinical experience for dental students, it’s close to home, and it has every specialty.
* Can you talk about the DAT?
  + Many dental students use DAT Bootcamp and Kaplan sources to study for the DAT. They all gave themselves a good month to three months to study and prepare for the exam. The good thing about DAT boot camp is that they give you a schedule and a time frame for when they suggest to read material/ know different things.
* Did any of you take a gap year?
  + Many students take a gap year to study for the DAT and also to get a master’s degree to help prepare them for dental school. Always let the admissions committee know what you are doing!
* What’s one thing you wish you had known?
  + Take anatomy at UIC, your personal statement is hard to write so use the UIC resources that are FREE! Try holding mock interviews with anyone! Always try to shadow more than 1 dentist.
* Have your families adjusted to your schedule?
  + At first is what hard for some family members to get used to the fact that we can’t always hang out or talk. But, they soon learned that we are very busy people
* How long did you have to wait to hear of interview?
  + Anywhere from October to late spring