PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2014-2015

California State University, Los Angeles Sigma Kappa Chapter

A. Initiations

The Sigma Kappa Chapter held two initiations over the 2015-2015 school year. The first initiation was held during the fall quarter of the school year on December 6th, 2014. The second initiation was held during the spring quarter of the school year on May 15th, 2015. Our chapter initiated 12 new members in the fall quarter and an additional 2 more in the spring quarter.

Candidates first had to fulfill a strict set of requirements in order to be eligible for initiation into the honor society. The initial requirement was to meet our university's GPA standard, which was set as the top 25% for juniors and top 35% for seniors in their respective class standing. After sending out invitations to qualified candidates, they were required to attend an orientation. We then provided introductory information about the honor society and deadlines for resume submission, initiation fees and community service hours. After all these requirements were met and proper verifications submitted, the candidates then received an invitation to the initiation ceremony, where we initiated the attendees.

Candidates that attended the ceremonies were professionally dressed. The president and the vice president followed the standard initiation procedures and explained the honor society's objectives, commitments, and history. After finishing, the new members took a group picture and were asked to sign an album where their picture would be placed. After all formal introductions, our chapter provided food and refreshments for all participants.

B. Activities

<u>National Convention</u>

The Pi Tau Sigma California State University, Los Angeles Sigma Kappa Chapter sent out the new President, Jason Ortiz, and returning Vice President, Ethian Ting, to the 2015 National Convention held at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. They participated in a multitude of events, including the meetings, social events, laboratory tours, and career fair. Most importantly, they were able to network with other Pi Tau Sigma members and professionals from the field. The Sigma Kappa Chapter also

obtained the contact information of several other chapters that were close to our own campus. Our chapter later utilized these connections to schedule a joint event. The National Convention also helped our chapter gain knowledge about how other chapters developed their own members through activities, goals, and objectives. This will help our chapter improve immensely.

Board Meetings

Initially, our chapter had struggles setting up. The previous board members had all departed with the exception of Vice President Ethian Ting. However, he had only been on the past board for a short period of time, and was not able to help with the transition period as much. For most of the fall and winter quarters, our chapter struggled to learn how to conduct initiations, recruit members, and other regular chapter business. However, we were very unprepared for the first initiation and ended up not having enough time to schedule and volunteering events for the new initiates. They were instead told to individually volunteer at external events. This was a big problem, as our board was not able to connect on a closer level to the new members. We were also unable to continue the annual Engineering Honor Society Mixer because we did not understand how to receive funding from our student government.

After the national convention and during the spring quarter of the year, our board began to understand better how to run the honor society. We were able to schedule regular meetings throughout the school year to get down to business. We also communicated regularly through email and group texts to keep up to date. Our chapter also found a new advisor, Professor Samuel Landsberger from the Mechanical Engineering department at California State University, Los Angeles.

We will be fixing many of these problems within the next year. Our entire board is returning for another year and we have introduced a new member to the board to help distribute the workload. The new President, Ethian Ting, will also be a member of the campus student government, which will ensure that we understand how to receive funding to make our events more successful. We would also like to keep better track of what we discuss at our meetings, so we will incorporate agendas and minutes. To make sure meetings run smoothly, we will begin using Robert's Rules of Order.

Northrop Grumman Tour

Our chapter also had a joint event with the Cal Poly Pomona Delta Beta Chapter, which was a tour of a Northrop Grumman facility. The event was a success and 12 members from our chapter attended.