PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2010-2011

University of Connecticut Pi Psi

A. Initiations

Early in the semester, the chapter president receives a list of eligible initiates from the mechanical engineering office. Candidates are selected based on academic merit and must be in the top 25% of the mechanical engineering class as a junior or in the top 33% as a senior. The eligible initiates are then contacted by email and invited to an informational session. At the informational session, candidates are briefed on the history of Pi Tau Sigma nationally and the goals of the Pi Psi Chapter at the University of Connecticut. Eligible initiates are invited to the bi annual initiation ceremony, but are not told exactly what the ceremony will involve.

For our initiation, eligible candidates are asked to dress business casual, and come prepared with a means to pay the initiation fee. In addition, candidates must present a mechanical engineering textbook with signatures from three faculty members in the mechanical engineering department. After presenting the book, the candidate enters a dark room that is illuminated only by a single candle. Sitting behind the candle is our faculty advisor, who proceeds to ask the candidate a series of engineering questions. If the candidate fails to answer a question satisfactorily, the candle is extinguished and the questioning ends. After all the initiates have completed the interview process, the president and vice president each speak to the incoming class. The candidates are sworn in, and then refreshments are served.

The Pi Psi Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma conducted two initiations this school year. We initiated 4 members on October 28, 2010 and nine on April 21, 2011.

B. Chapter Activities

Each semester, our chapter is asked to volunteer at the UConn School of Engineering open house. Members are asked to serve as tour guides for the event, and to direct families arriving on campus. In this capacity, members were responsible for leading groups of prospective students to and from a variety of demonstrations arranged by the school of engineering as well as answering questions about life at the university.

Typically, the chapter generally meets monthly. However, officers generally meet much more frequently than that. Our chapter has a close relationship with several other organizations on campus, including ASME and the Electrical and Computer Engineering honor society, and we strive to coordinate events with each of them.

This year, the president attended the national convention in Chicago, and valued the experience so much that we are currently planning the means to bring more members next year.