Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report

2014-2015

University of Connecticut Pi Psi

A. Initiations

In this segment indicate your initiation procedure including selection process, requirements from initiates, initiation ceremony and rituals, and celebration. Include dates and numbers for all initiations held. No need to list names of initiates.

B. Chapter Activities

Include all chapter activities for the academic year. This will involve fundraisers, community services, university projects, etc. Please give sufficient details if the project involved other societies and if so what was your level of participation. To support your statements you may include photos, local paper articles, etc. Discuss your chapter meetings, banquets, convention participation and anything else that your chapter is involved with.

C. Other

Include anything else here that does not fit the above two categories that will strengthen your report.

A. Initiations

During the semester, the program coordinator of the Engineering Undergraduate office sends out a list of eligibles to the chapter president. These eligibles are selected based on the GPA and include the top 33% of seniors and top 25% of juniors. These eligibles are contacted through email and are invited to an information session to find out more about the honor society and our chapter activites. 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 the initiation, they need to bring a mechanical engineering textbook with 3 signatures from mechanical engineering professors as well as a check for the initiation fee. The occasion is business casual and starts with each eligible showing their signed textbook. They are then brought into a dark room, lit only by a candle, with the faculty advisor. Here, the advisor asks the eligible engineering questions which if answered correctly keep the candle lit. After the advisor has stumped the initiate, they return to the room with the others, pays the initiation fee, and signs into a membership book. After all the eligibles have completed this, the president and vice president welcome the initiates into the society by reading their respective passages from the chapter manual. The eligibles are now officially members of Pi Tau Sigma.

There is usually a pizza party and social gathering after the initiation so that the new initiates get to know each other. In the spring, there is a general body meeting held at the same time so that elections can be held for the next year. Initiations were held on November 4, 2014 and April 2, 2015. There were 11 initiates in the fall and 7 initiates in the spring.

After attending the national convention many ideas were presented and may be adopted next year. These include a more in-depth initiation quiz covering officers, history and academics. The casting or machining of our own bents, the carrying around of a white rose after initiation, along with other bonding activities.

B. Chapter Activities

Chapter meetings are held weekly to plan upcoming events and discuss goals for the chapter. Each semester, 5 students volunteered to help with the Engineering Open House and were tour guides for the event. The students were asked to bring groups of parents and students to different stations with demonstrations as well as answer any questions they might have. For bonding we had a club dinner at a local Italian restaurant where members dressed up and had a nice night out on the town. Also this academic school year we initiated a tutoring program running one hour after our club meetings where members would stay and any engineers could come and get help and advice on homework and projects. The program has great bones but needs better advertising and awareness to flush out participation. With that said the students we did help found it very rewarding. This semester we gained a new advisor who happens to be the mechanical

engineering department head. He has become a great resource allowing us to even consider asking other departments to use their sand casting equipment and so forth. One of his great contributions this semester was providing funding for 6 of our members to attend the national convention. Included in this crowd were next year's club president and vice president. Exposing our juniors to the sheer size of the engineering community across the country, allowing them to befriend students from other states, and having them pick the brains of multiple club presidents really inspired them to take on a more active role and a builder's mindset. Currently our organization is at a redevelopment stage and with help from last year's convention will see a great rebirth. Finally this past semester we created a few engineering sweat pant designs for a fundraiser but were blindsided when the material science honor society launched an identical fundraiser mere days before ours.

C. Other

The upcoming year will be a rebirth of our organization with:

A new website,
A new advisor with company ties who wishes to help us get funding,
Participation in an ASME robotics challenge,
We've acquired permission to have our own workbench in the machine shop next semester,
With help from our advisor and national president we'll get the list of elegable students sooner, kick off initiation sooner, and get this club moving forward sooner.

2015-2016 is going to be the year!