2016 - 2017

Wisconsin - Alpha

A. Initiations

Our initiation process is strictly based on GPA and grade level. For our senior prospective members, a 3.25 GPA is required, for juniors a 3.5 GPA, and for sophomores a 3.7 GPA. We do not admit freshman at this time. We also do not pursue graduate members, although they would be welcome to join if they sought us out. We average about 5 new members every semester.

The initiation ceremony is held in a classroom where the new initiates are seating in a line at the front of the room. The president and vice president stand up front and follow the initiation instructions as written in the book. The lights are dimmed. We also display the crest of Pi Tau Sigma in an illuminated box (We are currently looking into getting something more official looking.)

New initiates are encouraged to be dressed business casual. Other existing members, and especially the officers, are encouraged to attend the initiation, although it is not a mandatory meeting. Our staff advisor Jaal Ghandhi is also present. After being initiated, the new inductees sign the official roll book and take a Pi Tau Sigma casting. The initiation is typically the last meeting of the semester and members begin attending meetings the following semester, although we are reevaluating if that is the best strategy.

Our Fall Initiation was held on December 13th, 2016, bringing in members 1568 - 1572.
Our Spring Initiation was held on April 26th, 2017, bringing in members 1573 - 1577.

B. Chapter Activities

Our chapter has been in a rebuilding phase over the last year after the previous officers let it die completely. With a scarcity of dedicated members and being busy trying to attract new ones there have not been as many activities each semester as we would like. We hold about two to three general meetings each semester. These consist of a brief address from the president regarding updates and whatever other appropriate information there is to relay, followed by an hour long presentation from a faculty member, typically regarding the research that they are working on. We have decided to focus on the academia side of engineering because of the academic exclusivity of the organization, in addition to the fact that our ASME chapter on campus covers the industry aspect of engineering very well.

Aside from the general meetings, as of now there is really only one other event that Pi Tau Sigma is involved with, which is the end of ME Awards Banquet. We arrange the banquet

jointly with the ME Department, who funds the meal and award money. Our part of the planning involves polling our peers (typically restricted to PTS members and other graduating seniors) for the best Professor and Best TA awards. We also facilitate gathering applications for an undergraduate award gifted by the F.M. Young family every year for outgoing seniors.

We schedule our Spring initiation to directly precede the Awards Banquet so that they can attend and have the opportunity to mingle with their new brothers in Pi Tau Sigma, as well the many faculty who attend the awards. We have discovered that, because of this good experience directly following initiation, spring inductees usually become more involved than their fall counterparts. We are looking into an activity that could similarly impress new initiates in the fall.

Two members of our chapter also attended the Pi Tau Sigma Convention in Philadelphia at Drexel university this year. We plan on attending again next year in Florida and will hopefully bring even more officers.

C. Other

While our activities last year were quite limited we have plans to expand our chapter's footprint on campus. We have talked with other engineering organizations, namely ASME, about forming some joint event and using their considerable size to help get Pi Tau Sigma's name out. We also plan on revamping our website so we can have a presentable face for people to look up when they receive an invitation. This is important to us because we have heard from members that some people think it is a scam, like so many other "Honor Societies" they get emails from. Hopefully we will have these things and more to report on next year.