PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2013-2014

Oklahoma State Lambda

A. Initiations

Selecting members for the Oklahoma State Lambda chapter of Pi Tau Sigma begins by obtaining a list of qualifying students from the mechanical engineering department. This is determined by taking the students within the top 25% of the junior class and top 33% of the senior class. The students selected are given letters of invitation before one of their engineering classes in front of the entire class to give notice to the organization, and recognize the top students among their peers. The invitation contains the time and location of the pledge social where students meet current members, are informed of the responsibilities of both pledges and members, and officially invited to pledge Pi Tau Sigma.

The pledge requirements are to attend 3 of 4 pledge meetings, one of which is the pledge social and another of which is the pledge test. The remaining two meetings are held to go over test material and do a group activity. The test material includes historical facts about the local and national organizations, riddles, and engineering related questions. The pledges are required to pass the test with a score of 70% or better. This year's group activity included designing a new pledge box, to be used as an initiation object and to hold all other initiation materials. Pledges are also required to make a pledge board in the shape of a Carnot cycle which has the Pi Tau Sigma letters on one side (in murray and azure), and a collection of member and faculty signatures on the back.

Once the test and boards are complete the pledges will be initiated. This year the fall pledge class of 11 students was initiated on November 14, 2012, and the spring pledge class of 13 students was initiated on April 14, 2013. The initiation ceremony is held in the mechanical engineering conference room, which for the ceremony is adorned with Pi Tau Sigma memorabilia and candles. The ceremony consists of the president and vice president reciting the national ritual to the initiates. This is followed by a few words of encouragement from the faculty advisor, and a congratulatory hand shake from each established member to each new initiate. Members are required to attend the ceremony unless excused by the chapter president; usually around 20 are able to make it. To celebrate, the newly initiated members are taken out to eat by the president, vice president, and any other members that wish to join.

B. Chapter Activities

The Oklahoma State Lambda chapter sponsors a student/faculty social once a semester. This is done in the fall semester as an ice cream social and in the spring as a pizza social. The event is usually from 11:00 am to noon. This gives students an opportunity to become more than another face in the crowd to faculty, and for faculty to recognize which students strive to achieve high marks in their classes. Pledges are encouraged to collect signatures for their pledge boards during

this event. As a tradition, the faculty usually asks the pledges to sing “Glory, Glory Dear Old Thermo”.

We also had a group activity to design a new box to hold all initiation materials, including the Pi Tau Sigma memorabilia that is used in the initiation ceremony. The box itself is meant to light up and be the centerpiece of the decorations at the initiation ceremony. The pledges designed the new box and construction on it should begin next semester.

C. Other

Currently the Oklahoma State Lambda chapter is collecting funds to refurbish our wheel of progress. The wheel is about 4 feet tall, with a freely rotating cog positioned just behind a stationary Carnot cycle with the letters “Pi Tau Sigma” engraved into it. Pledges are required to spin the wheel at their third pledge meeting to symbolize moving forward into membership and their professional careers as engineers. The wheel is in poor condition in general, but most specifically needs a new plaque (currently “Oklahoma” is spelled wrong, and “State” is left out of our chapter name) and a new coat of paint. These repairs were quoted at around $450.