PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2010-2011

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO ALPHA SIGMA

A. Initiations

Initiations were adapted this year to get a more qualified group of initiates. The process of pre-mailing candidates for initiation was done in the fall semester and continued through to the spring semester. Candidates were told what our organization was and the benefits of getting involved. They were also asked to attend the next general meetings to get more information. The names of the candidates, who attended meetings during the semester, were recorded by our secretary. This gave us a good idea of who would be active upon being initiated. These active candidates were then chosen first for the initiations that semester. After this only a few individuals were requested from the candidate list to be initiated. These people were chosen first on the basis of how much time they had left before graduating. Initiates were required to fill out an application which included both personal information (address, email) and professional information (why they chose ME, what they want to do in the future). An initiation class of around 7-8 was shot for.

Our initiation was done on a Friday, two week prior to our finals week. Initiates were led into a dimly lit room where the emblem and key were displayed. Initiates were seated in a row in the middle of the room while current members sat along the walls facing towards the initiates. The initiation readings were done and afterwards congratulations were given. Initiates were then treated to a meal at a nearby restaurant. During the spring semester the polishing bents and plaque staining ceremony was added to the initiation process. We may keep the ceremony as a once per year ceremony so that initiates can do theirs with a larger group, since it would include the fall semester members. The ceremony was done on a Saturday and lasted around 2 hours. After the stain had set and prior to the bent being affixed to the plaque, members and initiates signed the back of each other's plaques to record the people present and their initiate class.

Fall semester initiation was done on Friday November 19th, 2010. There were eight students initiated in the fall semester. The spring semester initiation was done on Friday April 15th, 2011. Five students were initiated in the spring semester.

B. Chapter Activities

<u>Fall Semester</u>

There were three general meetings this semester which were held at the most available time for members to attend. Meeting sought to update people on the up and coming convention as well as the events that were being held during the semester.

In the fourth week in the semester our first event, The Carnot Classic, was held. This was the second time this event was done. The Carnot Classic is a bowling event where the UIC bowling alley is rented out for unlimited games on all lanes for 2 hours. Food and drinks were provided. The event was open to anyone and only cost $15. This event was advertised by our Activities Director through flyers and postings in the engineering buildings and dorms. The result of the

event was that there was a good turnout with around 40 people in attendance. These were mostly members and friends of members who showed up. The event raised in total $25. This was a good amount since this event is only just starting out and all of the expenses were covered. In the future more advertising and utilizing campus funding will help make this event both fun and profitable for the society.

Twice during the fall semester members were allowed to earn hours by volunteering at on campus career fairs. The society earned money for the overall number of workers available for the day. The money raised was around $150 and could only be used on purchases approved by the career fair department. This money was used to provide pizzas at a couple of the general meetings.

Once during the fall semester a Wendy's fundraiser was done. This event was advertised only to members and a few friends of members. Wendy's for a period of three hours gave a percentage of profit from sales to our organization. This was the first time that this event had been done and it raised approximately $100 which is excellent for the little work required to hold this event. In the future, this event should happen more frequently throughout the semester. There is no limit on the number of times an organization can hold this event.

Tutoring was held every Wednesday throughout this semester. On the whole there was a good turnout of both tutees and members to tutor them. These regular tutoring hours allowed our members to earn hours during the semester. Since not all could attend the general meeting hours the tutoring allowed them to hear the information from the previous meeting. This event should continue to occur since it gives back to the students and grows camaraderie among active members.

A fundamentals of engineering exam (FE) and professional engineers exam (PE) information session was held during the fall semester. This provided information on what to expect when taking the exam and how one should prepare for the exam. Additionally reasons why one should take the exam were provided. This event helped professionally prepare members and other students from the department.

A UIC power plant tour was given by the director of the power plant. A group of around 15 PTS members and 10 other students from different organizations walked through the on campus power plant. The event was very interesting to anyone studying engineering. On the tour people saw the multiple large boilers which generated steam for all of Chicago campuses. Large diesel backup generators and power distribution systems were seen as well. The event was important since it gave students a sense of the size and complexity that a power and utilities plant required.

<u>Spring Semester</u>

Four general meetings were held during the spring semester. These meetings updated students on the many activities being held during the convention and throughout the semester. Volunteers for the convention were told how they would be getting involved. The meetings allowed members to earn an hour for attendance. Most of the meetings provided food and drinks for attending members.

Tutoring was still held every Wednesday for the entire semester. Less tutees were seen this semester since adequate flyers were not posted in the department buildings. This was mostly due

to the focusing of all officers on the convention planning. Tutoring still provided earnable hours for members and promoted camaraderie amongst members.

National Convention

The National Convention was hosted by our chapter on February 11th through 13th of 2011. The convention had been in the process of being planned for over two years. Most of the work for the convention was done within the fall and spring semester.

Companies were recruited for sponsorship early on in fall semester on an individual basis. Our group started with companies closely tied by research to our university. Previous sponsors of the convention were contacted next. Then progressively global and national companies were targeted next. Following this, smaller companies, the department and college were then requested to get involved. During this time the rough convention itinerary was developed. Determination of realistic events (ones which could be done on our expected budget) happened as sponsors either contributed or didn't respond.

The initial hotel search was of five hotels located around downtown Chicago. In the end the hotel closest to campus was luckily willing to give the best prices and was selected. The hotel contract was negotiated during multiple meetings where pricing and terms were renegotiated. The end contract secured a block of rooms for our convention guests within the hotel, free meeting and dining rooms for the convention, and a set price per plate of $120 for the five meals during the convention. Most of the convention took place in the hotel.

In the two months prior to the convention a registration survey was sent to all chapters by nationals. This survey registered a member for the convention and got all the needed information, such as meal preference, travel mode, name and email.

Saturday of the convention was mostly on campus. The day included a 4 hour national meeting in a lecture hall. Following this was an on campus lunch catered by Subway with a speaker during the meal from ITW. A career fair took place with most of the sponsors of the convention in attendance. Then a convention photo was taken with all the attendees and the convention banners. Finally, a tour of the research facilities was given by our members and presentations in each lab were given. Convention attendees were then shuttled back to the hotel.

On the whole the convention was an immense success. Over 225 members were in attendance and they represented over 75 chapters. The events went smoothly without any flaws or scheduling problems. Companies were happy with their involvement. Many members, including the national officers, congratulated our chapter for the excellent job hosting the convention. I would suggest a chapter to host one if they have a committed group who are willing to put in the time. It was a very fulfilling experience to see everything your group has planned come to fruition. Planning a convention is also something that very few people can say that they were a part of.

C. Other

Members were still required to contribute 10 hours during each semester in order to remain active in the society. Active members were given incentives over inactive members such as

discounts on graduation materials, a free meal during the initiation, and recognition as an active member in the society.

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