PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2016-2017

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Alpha Chi

A. Initiation

Two initiations were held during academic year 2016-2017. The first initiation was held on October 15, 2016, with the presence of four new members. The second initiation was held on April 12, 2017, with the presence of again four new members. In both of the initiation ceremonies, the ceremony followed the rituals as indicated in the Rituals of Pi Tau Sigma handbook. After each ceremony, light refreshments were served and in the second ceremony officer elections were held. The nomination process was coordinated by faculty advisor Dr. Majid Molki, who provided the officers with an anonymous list of students sorted by G.P.A. and total credit hours. The officers reviewed this list and selected the appropriate nominees based on the class percentages as laid out in the Pi Tau Sigma Constitution. Afterwards, the list was returned to Dr. Molki for final review and confirmation. The names of the nominees were then forwarded to the chapter president and invitations to join were sent out shortly thereafter.

New initiates of the spring initiation ceremony

B. Chapter Activities

Our big event for the year was going to a local grade school to promote the profession of engineering. We taught them about various scientific principles in way that facilitated learning. This included hands on portions, questions and answer sessions, live demonstrations, 3D CAD models for enhanced understanding, and 3D printed objects to pass around. All of which was created for the purpose of teaching these young students. We explained topics such as the Bernoulli Principle and fluid mechanics, sensors and actuators, basic mechanisms, and thermodynamics to name a few. We were at the school teaching for about 6 hours. The faculty that attended had nothing but praise for our demonstration. They even asked us if this could be a yearly arrangement. The current members believe that the next president and vice president should turn this into a

tradition. This learning experience will foster a helpful curiosity in young minds and gently nudge them into the sciences and mathematics. Overall, this was our most notable accomplishment.

We had monthly meetings to think of fundraising methods and ways to give the organization more local exposure. This past year really suffered from a lack of involvement fromits constituents though. Mostly the president and vice president were active. This seriously impeded any fundraising efforts because two people can hardly run an effective event without placing undue burden on themselves. Also, during this past year, we initiated more members. With a larger amount of initiates this year than the previous one, we hope that more ambitious projects can be undertaken.

The president had a journey to the national conference at Drexel University. The president learned valuable methods that other chapters used to encourage involvement, such as having a dedicated website for the school chapter to post information. Also, having mandatory volunteer hours would be most beneficial. This was also an excellent networking opportunity as well.