Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report

2016 – 2017

Purdue Beta

A. Initiations

In order to begin the selection process, students with a GPA according to the scale below were emailed directly by our Vice President of Pledges and approved by our faculty advisor to join for an informational meeting outlining requirements.

Semester	GPA (Cumulative)
4	3.6
5	3.5
6	3.4
7+	3.3

Initiates then decided to continue in the process to becoming active members. Potential members were required to acquire signatures from all fellow potential members of their initiates class. Along with those signatures, they were required to get signatures from officers and chairs of the society (~40 members) in which requirements to get those signatures depended on the position. This allowed for members to be aware of the way that Pi Tau is run at Purdue. In accordance, four professors' signatures were also required in order to provide the students chances to create rapports with faculty. Along with signatures, the initiates must conduct 5 interviews of officers and chairs of their choosing in order to provide further information of the leadership positions available for further involvement in Pi Tau. Community service represents an important part of the mission of the Purdue Beta chapter, and thus the initiates must also complete a service event with the local Lafayette community along with active members. Along with the service event, the initiates are also required to spend an hour each week running the local lounge that provides various services to the Purdue ME community.

Once those requirements were completed, and the chapter makes note that the initiates study the history and facts of the National and local chapter of Pi Tau Sigma, the chapter votes to allow the initiates to join the ceremony to become official members. The ceremony begins by leading initiates to the room in which the official ceremony takes place. The room is dimly lit and potential members are allowed in one by one after correctly answering Pi Tau Sigma trivia. The adjusted script for the Chapter from Nationals is spoken and the initiates are awarded full membership along with the Brass Bents as a token of membership into the society. Members sign their name into the local chapter leger of Purdue Beta. Once completed, the newest members along with older active members are invited to join the celebration of the semester at our bi-annual banquet.

The Fall Initiation occurred on December 6th, 2016 with 27 New Members initiated.

The Spring Initiation occurred on April 25th, 2017 with 18 New Members initiated.

B. Chapter Activities

Year-long activities of the Purdue Beta Chapter include tutoring, lounge service, test file access, exam prep sessions, and weekly tutor nights. Every semester, members are given the chance to tutor in a class in which they feel comfortable teaching. The tutor list is given to advisors in the mechanical engineering department at Purdue to share as a resource to any student in mechanical engineering. Purdue Beta also provides a lounge service to students with discounted food options and school supplies needed for purchase any time during the day. The chapter also provides access to students to buy old test files that may be needed to assist in studying for exams. In accordance, for sophomore level classes, Pi Tau provides hour long review sessions for students to attend; active members run through old exams with students and answer any questions that students may have regarding material, while providing tips to succeed on the exams. Weekly tutor nights were also held once a week, in which active members volunteered to answer any questions that students may have regarding homework for classes.

For the fall semester, Purdue Beta held the first annual Research Creativity Seminar. The event invited any students in Mechanical Engineering to join for a day of idea generation and learning the steps in the design process. Teaming up with a professor in Mechanical Engineering, students were placed in teams and created unique solutions to solve a research problem posed by the professor. Awards were given to the overall best design and honorable mentions were also given to the appropriate teams.

During the fall semester, Pi Tau at Purdue helps the Mechanical Engineering department ballot for awarding the Sollberg Award for Teaching. Students in the Mechanical Engineering School vote for the professors that have had a meaningful impact on their learning at Purdue. The award is then presented to the professor with the most votes and acknowledged by the Mechanical Engineering School. Pi Tau members go to class times of upper level courses and explain the balloting procedure to students; furthermore, the Pi Tau members then collect ballots to return to the mechanical engineering school for counting.

Each semester, Pi Tau holds the Mechanical Engineering Forum. The Forum is an event completely organized by the Purdue Beta Chapter to allow students to voice their opinions about the classes that they are taking or have taken. The mechanical engineering student body is surveyed before the event and a summary presentation is made. On the day of the event, students and faculty are invited to join in order to gain perspectives on the critiques that have been made by students. As such, faculty can utilize the constructive advice to reformat courses to help students to learn and succeed at higher rates.

Each semester, the organization teamed up with the Boys and Girls Club of Lafayette to provide a carnival hosted by Pi Tau Sigma. The organization rented out inflatables and provided carnival games for children of the Boys and Girls Club with members

volunteering to man the event. The event allows to keep in touch with the community and provides the children to enjoy a fun Friday of carnival activities and games.

In regards to community service, the active members and the initiates both joined in during the Fall to participate in the Winterization volunteer event for the Lafayette area hosted by the local churches. Organizations sign up to help residents of the area whom require help with landscaping and simple tasks to prepare their houses for the winter months. Similarly, in the spring, the chapter participates in Boiler Blast, which takes the same premise of Winterization and allows organizations to sign up to help.

Finally, in the fall semester, Purdue Beta members partner up with a local elementary school for outreach. The chapter held two at St. Boniface elementary school, in which members created a project for 4th graders to complete. By organizing such events, the organization hoped to spread outreach of STEM principles and allow the elementary students to gain interest in such fields.