PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2013-2014

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Pi Kappa

President: Jad El Khoury

A. Initiation

The MIT Pi Kappa Chapter's selection process is initiated with an email to all of those in the department who qualify based on the rankings specified in Article III of the Pi Tau Sigma Constitution and Bylaws. We have initiated all those that have been interested, which has fallen within the "Maximum Active Members" limitations. Our initiation procedure mimics the initiation procedure as stated in the Rituals of Pi Tau Sigma guide. We have held a celebratory event following initiations where all new initiates where invited for a fancy dinner as a bonding experience between the new members. We have also organized a small reception afterwards where new members were able to meet each other and get to know each other better in hopes of promoting better cohesion within the society. Our initiation for the 2013-2014 year was held on September 30th and February 10th, where we initiated 39 new members, 13 of which where members who could not make it to the last initiation in the spring of 2012-2013.

B. Chapter Activities

This year was a year of overcoming mismanagement from previous years and the time to launch new initiatives. This year, we were able to boost motivation amongst members to attend most chapter activities. The executive board was really active, and the VP was chosen to be a junior to ensure continuity between the classes and after the graduation of the seniors. At first, we had significant difficulties offering services to the department as a result of only having less than 10 members that actively participated and pitched in. However, once the 39 new members were initiated, our chapter was really active helping the department and we managed to expand the tutoring services for those that requested assistance to assist companies in their recruitment process at MIT. We have worked closely with the department to organize multiple resume critique workshops and career orientation seminars. We also contacted companies such as BP, EuroPro, Shell and others and worked with them on organizing info sessions that were open to the entire department. We also held numerous grad school panels attended by directors of admissions from MIT, Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech and other schools. Our tutoring service is one of our priorities, and our tutoring chair has been great at matching up members of the society with those that need help in certain subjects.

Additionally, one thing that did work well for recruiting to the Department of Mechanical Engineering was a booth we set up at the Academic Fair during Campus Preview Weekend for the pre-freshman that came to visit. We did get good traffic and a lot of interest, and it was successful in helping to publicize the services that we offer to the campus.

This year, we made sure that all new members attended the events by keeping track of attendance, and the President was the one organizing all the workshops and seminars. We have also ordered all certificates, pins and membership cards, and distributed those to all members, as the previous committee did not get the chance to order them. In the future, it would be important to have new members take more initiative and plan the different events in small groups by themselves. Another step forward would be the organization of a PTS career fair for Mechanical Engineering students, or a co Pi Tau Sigma-Tau Beta Pi career fair at MIT to maximize the recruitment opportunity for Mechanical Engineering students.

C. Other

We will be holding community service events coordinated with the Charles River Conservancy as well as with organizations in Boston aiming to promote the learning of science and technology. Furthermore, we're looking to do a lot more to give back to the MIT Mechanical Engineering Department. This year, we have budgeted to hold "study breaks" in the Mechanical Engineering lounge throughout the academic year to publicize Pi Tau Sigma on campus and get our presence as strong as or stronger than the other engineering honor's society on campus, Tau Beta Pi.

We have a very promising year coming up as we have included honorary members of the sophomore class into the activities, further expanding our participation and thereby making events easier to host. The class that was just initiated is very talented, and the new executive members have deep experience in dealing with other organizations within the Department of Mechanical Engineering as well as having previously held other leadership positions around campus. I have been coordinating with them frequently despite the fact that I am graduated because one of the pitfalls that weakened this society was the lack of an adequate turnover program among the leadership positions. A write up of the responsibilities of each position to help guide the new position holders was documented.

A new PTS MIT Pi Kappa website was developed to keep track of our history and publicize our honorary society. Fancy dinners were frequently organized to reward members with dedicated commitment to the society and its activities. The turnout to these dinners was great.

I am looking forward to helping the new initiates get off to a great start at the beginning of the academic year and am excited to see what other ideas they add to the existing ones that we will be implementing shortly.