PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2012-2013

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Pi Kappa

A. Initiations

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 not held celebratory events following initiations traditionally, but we are starting to include that in our budget. We are going to use some of our funding towards a reception afterwards where new members can meet each other and get to know each other better in hopes of promoting better cohesion within the society. Our initiation for the 2012-2013 year was held on May 16, 2013, where we initiated 13 new members. In the early fall right when classes commence, we will be initiating around 15-20 more members that could not make the last initiation.

B. Chapter Activities

This year was a year of overcoming mismanagement from previous years. This year, we only had seniors in the society because the president from the previous year forgot to recruit new members that were eligible for the society. 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. We did fulfill the tutoring services for those in the department that requested assistance, however. 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.

Furthermore, because the previous president wasn't able to carry out the presidential duties of the organization any longer midway through the semester, I stepped into this position with ideas that I'm coordinating with the new executive members (2013-2014 academic year) to implement.

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. For example, we're budgeting 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. Having been in ROTC, I have implemented a similar turnover policy that is used in the military where one-on-one meetings are held with current and former position holders along with a write up of the responsibilities of each position to help guide the new position holders.

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.