PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2019 - 2020

Northeastern University Tau Kappa

A. Initiation

There was one initiation held this year during the spring semester. The initiation was originally due to be held in-person on March 26, 2020, with the information session scheduled for the week before. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, campus was closed and the original initiation and information session were cancelled. The initiation and information session were instead held virtually over Zoom video chat on April 24th, 2020. As students joined the event, they filled out a Google form collecting their name, school email, and personal email for the PTS rollbook filings. The students then sent their one-time initiation payment to the Treasurer. The information session soon started and the President outlined the traditions of Pi Tau Sigma and the Northeastern chapter. Initiates were also informed about the benefits of being a member and the opportunities that it brings. Next, the chapter advisor, Professor Taslim, gave a short speech commending the initiates and congratulating them for joining this prestigious organization.

The initiation ceremony then began, which was slightly different than usual due to the virtual format. With the bent and crest shared on the screen, the initiates were asked to turn down their lights and pay attention. The President and Vice President then read the ritual to the initiates. At the initiates' spoken portion, the students were called by name to turn on their camera, unmute their mics, and state their declarations. Finally, e-board elections were held to fill the positions of Vice President, Community Service chair, Secretary, and Networking chair. The new members nominated themselves for the roles they were interested in, then gave a pitch about why they would be a good fit for the role. Voting was then anonymously held by Google form for each position. All e-board positions were filled for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The main deviation from the traditional ceremony was the absence of the roll book. Given the virtual platform, students were not able to sign the roll book on the night of initiation. Once campus is re-opened, the chapter President for the 2020-2021 school year will work with the chapter advisor to send the roll book to the new initiates and the previous president for signing. This deviation was approved by the Secretary Treasurer.

Initiation eligibility was extended to mechanical engineering students that are in good academic standing, and are within the top 25% of the middler, junior, or senior class. Of those eligible, 25

students were initiated. There was not a group photo since the initiation was virtual, however a video of the ceremony was sent to the Secretary-Treasurer.

B. Chapter Activities

There was significant involvement with the Northeastern ASME chapter during this school year. Members of the NU chapter Pi Tau Sigma e-board collaborated with ASME to hold weekly engineering workshops in which students learned engineering skills that are not taught in the classroom. Additionally, there were networking events held occasionally that united Northeastern Pi Tau Sigma and ASME members.

While members maintained their personal community service commitments, there were numerous group events planned for the spring with local organizations such as Haley House, Jamaica Pond Park Run, and the Greater Boston Food Bank. Unfortunately, they were all scheduled for the later half of the semester and had to be cancelled due to members heading to their prospective home states when campus was closed. The contact information has been saved for these organizations and been passed down to the coming e-board to facilitate future community service.

Initiation this spring was successful given the circumstances, with a turnout of 25 students trending upward from the year before. Even given the uncharted territory, the students showed their gratitude that the initiation was not permanently cancelled.

The Mechanical Engineering Professor of the Year contest was held in the spring semester to congratulate a professor who has made a substantial impact on their students. Professor Mehdi Abedi was the recipient of this honor for the third year in a row.

Even with the cancellation of graduation, numerous graduating senior members purchased Pi Tau Sigma cords and stoles to brighten their own celebrations at home. A majority of our e-board turned over again this year, but the chapter is in good hands with our new president, Jack Hale.