2018-2019

WPI Tau Tau

A. Initiation

The WPI Tau Tau chapter held two rounds of initiation during the past academic year, one at the end of the fall semester and a second in the middle of the spring semester. During the first evening initiation, an excellent class of ten new members was inducted, from which all six of our new officers were elected to serve the 2019-2020 year.

In the past few years the WPI Tau Tau chapter has been very exclusive and quiet, and our presence was not noticed much around campus. The chapter therefore voted to reduce the requirement from the top 10% of the mechanical juniors and seniors to the top 12.5% of the junior class and 20% of the senior class to match Tau Beta Pi's requirements.

The more inclusive requirements made for a much larger and more diverse initiate class, and nineteen new initiates entered the club in the spring initiation. This has resulted in more members attending events and service opportunities.

B. Chapter Activities

The main service that the WPI Tau Tau chapter has provided to our school is providing tutoring services to peers in some of the core mechanical engineering courses. These include statics, stress analysis, fluid mechanics, and thermodynamics. This year we tried including some new subjects including materials science and heat transfer. During these sessions the members of PTS gather for a few hours and help any students that need additional help in these subjects in an informal, one on one setting. This year we decided to concentrate on providing these sessions on nights preceding midterms and finals because we have four terms and thus midterms or finals every three to four weeks.

A new service that we provided this year was a course scheduling help session for underclassmen. WPI offers a very flexible schedule for the mechanical engineering major with many engineering electives in addition to the core classes. Many of our members graduate with a master's degree in four or five years or with several majors or minors and can help underclassmen navigate the multitude of options to make their education as efficient as possible. This event was a resounding success and even had members from the aerospace and civil departments coming in for help.

This year we also partnered with the mechanical engineering department to provide lab tours and information sessions to accepted students. In the past the mechanical engineering administration staff has provided these tours, but they noticed our increased activity this year and requested that we provide the tours, so the students and parents are more comfortable and get a student's perspective and stories.

We had several GBM's, social events, and other activities including one to refurbish the PTS concrete seal that became overgrown. The increase in attendance at these events has been noticeable since last year and we are hoping to continue this trend going into next year.

C. Other

In addition to increasing the membership in the club, we added two new executive positions to our chapter. We added a tutoring chair whose sole responsibility is to plan the tutoring sessions and work with the professors teaching the classes to acquire material to go over with the students. We also added a social chair to plan events and activities so we could have more and better planned events to make the club more fun. Previously these responsibilities did not have anyone assigned to them and had been performed by a disorganized combination of the core exec team. We also changed the exec elections from mid-spring semester to end of fall semester to allow more time for the new exec members to settle into their position while the old exec members were around to help and advise if need be.

This year our entire graduating class reported receiving a full-time job or acceptance into a graduate education program. 75% of the class took jobs from a variety of companies while 25% are continuing their education. We also have laid plans to start a strong PTS alumni relationship to provide advice and exclusive interview opportunities to try to make being part of the club a benefit as well as a service opportunity.