Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report

2016-2017

Worcester Polytechnic Institute Tau Tau

Prepared by Casey Broslawski, Secretary // cbroslawski@gmail.com

A. Initiations

The WPI Tau Tau Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma begins the initiation process by receiving a list of the top 10% of juniors, seniors, and now graduate students in the Mechanical Engineering Department from the club's faculty advisor. These eligible students are then contacted via email, and those interested in joining PTS are asked to complete the initiation requirements. These requirements are, in addition to being in the top 10% of their class, to attend a PTS social, receive a letter of recommendation, pay dues ($60), complete two hours of community service, and agree to a review of their academic integrity.

Eligible students that complete the initiation requirements are then inducted in either the fall or spring initiation ceremony. This ceremony, which is attended by current PTS members and run by the executive board, includes a description of PTS' origin, values, and role. By pledging to uphold the values of the organization, the eligible students officially become members of Pi tau Sigma; they sign their names in the role book, then are joined by the other members of the club for a small social. Certificates, keys, and ID cards are handed out at a later time.

The two initiation ceremonies this year are summarized as follows:

a. Fall- 11/30/2017, 10 new members
b. Spring- 3/22/2017, 3 new members

B. Chapter Activities
   a. General body meetings
      i. Held at least two GBMs per semester to communicate with the members of the club, hold votes/elections, socialize, etc.
   b. Tutoring spring semester
      i. At the request of the Mechanical Engineering Department, PTS established an "open tutoring session" for statics, stress analysis, dynamics, thermodynamics, fluids, and heat transfer. Twice a week several PTS members would be available for students to drop by to discuss these courses and get help. Professors were made aware of this opportunity so they could advertise it to their students. This program will likely be expanded in the future.
   c. Underclassman Meet and Greet/Social
      i. Twice (once in the fall and once in the spring) PTS upperclassmen held a pizza party and invited underclassmen (via email) so they could have an honest, student-to-student discussion about anything they wanted to know about WPI. Topics included PTS, studying abroad, senior theses, and

minoring in certain topics. These events doubled as avenues for members of the club to meet and socialize.

d. Table sitting
    i. Members of the executive board table sat during an activities fair in the days before school start to increase students' understanding of PTS. Many students were interested in the club, and an email alias was established so underclassmen could stay informed about open PTS events.
e. Various socials with food
    i. Throughout the year, socials were held for members of the club to allow members a chance to network and connect. These events typically had some kind of food (ex. - pizza).
f. Went to Nationals
    i. The President and a member of WPI Tau Tau attended this year's National Convention in Philadelphia. They learned about the club's national presence, leadership, and new rules, as well as met with members of PTS from around the country. They had a good time and reported back to the club with what they learned.
g. End of the Year Breakfast with ME Department Faculty
    i. In keeping with tradition, at the end of the year a breakfast was held for the members of PTS and the Mechanical Engineering Department faculty. This allowed the club an opportunity to reflect on the year and say goodbye to the seniors. Stoles/cords were distributed at this time.
h. Provided feedback on a ME Department course
    i. A conference call was held between the Mechanical Engineering Department Head, a professor, some student teaching leads, and the members of PTS to discuss a student-run manufacturing course taught throughout the year at WPI. This allowed students a chance to provide valuable feedback on their experience with the course so it could be improved.
i. Purchased T-shirts to improve outreach
    i. For the first time in many years, club T-shirts were designed and made available for purchase to advertise PTS around WPI.
j. Made changes to local and national Bylaws
    i. Important votes were held (in accordance with National and the WPI Tau Tau chapter's constitutions) regarding community service (it is now only required for eligible students) and accepting graduate students into PTS (they are now allowed to join the WPI Tau Tau chapter of PTS).
k. Hiring event with Tau Beta Pi (Engineering Honor Society)
    i. Several PTS alums at a major company held a meet and greet the evening before WPI's 2016 Fall Career Fair. This allowed PTS and TBP students to attend a special presentation about the company and provided an opportunity for them to network with hiring directors in more personal way than what is possible at a career fair.

C. Other
    a. Improved club record keeping
        i. The overall organization of the club was improved this year, mostly due to records of all members and eligible students (attendance, dues, participation, etc.) were kept in one spreadsheet. This document was readily available to all of the executives, which made it easy for them to answer any of the members' questions. Additionally, protocols for budgeting, general body meetings, planning, etc. were established and passed down to the next executive board. Finally, improved transparency and planning helped executives and members alike coordinate their schedules in an organized fashion.
    b. Improve club's recognition at WPI
        i. By engaging current members (socials), reaching out to underclassmen (Meet and Greet, open activities email alias), advertising (T-shirts, table sitting), and working with students and faculty (course review phone call, tutoring), the overall presence of PTS in WPI's Mechanical Engineering Department grew tremendously this year.