PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2012-2013

Notre Dame Sigma Beta

A. Initiations

The initiation process was begun by obtaining a list of eligible students by grade point average from the university's mechanical engineering department. A message was sent to these students explaining the nature and goals of Pi Tau Sigma and its role in the field of mechanical engineering. Also in this message was an invitation to the eligible students to apply for membership. The application involved a listing of basic academic accomplishments and awards, extracurricular activities, professional goals and objectives, and views on the role and function of professional honor societies. The application further required a faculty recommendation, outlining academic performance, ethical demeanor, potential for a professional career in mechanical engineering, and overall recommendation.

Upon receiving all applications by the mid-March deadline, the chapter officers and faculty advisor met to review applications. The applications were evaluated for completeness, thoroughness, appropriateness of responses, commitment to the mechanical engineering profession, and finally faculty recommendation. Based on these applications and recommendations, suitable students were selected. The officers and advisor also considered whether there were any apparent ethical or other behavior-related objections to any members. None were recognized. Upon selection of accepted students, a message was sent to the students notifying them of their acceptance and requesting payment of organization dues.

Initiation for new members was held Thursday, April 18, 2013. The event took place at a local South Bend restaurant, Sunny Italy Café, as a dinner event. The initiation was attended by sixteen new initiates, three current chapter officers, and four mechanical engineering faculty, Professors Frank Incropera, Michael Stanisic, Gretar Trygvasson and Richard Strebinger. New initiates were initially allowed to mingle with faculty and get to know each other. Several minutes into the event, the appropriate rituals were performed, read by the chapter officers. The new initiates then recited the necessary pledge for initiation. Following the formal initiation, the faculty members each said a small word of congratulations and advice. Finally, dinner was served and initiates and faculty were allowed to converse.

B. Chapter Activities

Chapter activities included the aforementioned initiation event, ongoing officer meetings, a club service event, sending an officer to the national convention, and club elections.

Officer meetings were held periodically to cover any club happenings or news. These meetings covered any notices that had been sent to officers that required group attention or tending to, and

any concerns the officers had. Additionally, these meetings were used to discuss opportunities for club events and proactive action. Finally, officer meetings were used to determine potential candidates for membership, evaluate said candidates' applications, and finally to plan the initiation proceeding.

Pi Tau Sigma also aided in the organization and running of a MATHCOUNTS competition. This competition, held on campus at Notre Dame for local high school students, involved students completing math exams and competing by school and individually. Pi Tau Sigma volunteers paired with members of Tau Beta Pi, the general university engineering honor society, to grade exams under the supervision of mechanical engineering faculty organizing and proctoring the event. These volunteers were required to ensure that the event remain on schedule and to evaluate participants' performance. Volunteers were provided with snacks for their help.

This year, our chapter sent a member to the national convention at The Ohio State University. Matthew Hart, our chapter Vice President, attended on behalf of the Notre Dame Sigma Beta Chapter. Matt utilized that opportunity to better understand the operations of the national organization, new initiatives taking place at the national level, and requirements of individual chapters, along with utilizing the time as a chance for networking with other engineering professionals. Upon returning from the trip, Matt notified all chapter members of his experience and what he learned in the process.

Finally, club elections were held. A message was sent out to all new initiates requesting answers to questions including what position each candidate was running for, why they wanted to serve as an officer for Pi Tau Sigma, what previous leadership experience they possessed, and what events they would like to see Pi Tau Sigma undertake the following academic year. These responses were distributed to members, and elections were held to determine the new chapter President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.