PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2011-2012

University of Notre Dame Sigma Beta

A. Initiations

One initiation was held by the chapter this year in the spring of 2012 and the initiation process began in January 2012. A list of the potential initiates was generated by a departmental secretary. The list included the top 20 % of juniors and the top 35 % of the seniors, ranked by GPA. An invitation to apply was sent to each of the eligible students along with an application and a faculty recommendation form. After the applications were returned, the faculty advisor along with the advisors sat down with the applications and determined that all the eligible candidates who returned the applications would be inducted. The total number who applied was less than the maximum number who could be initiated per the PTS Constitution. The initiation ceremony was held in a private room at a restaurant in South Bend, Indiana. Those present included the eligible candidates, the four student officers, the faculty advisor, and three faculty members of Pi Tau Sigma. The rituals were solemnly carried out by the chapter President and Vice President. The initiation was held on March 21, 2012. There were 13 juniors initiated and three seniors initiated.

B. Chapter Activities

On February 4, 2012, the Sigma Beta chapter continued its long-standing community service tradition of grading the MathCounts competition. MathCounts is a nationwide middle school math competition and every year a regional competition is held on-campus at the University of Notre Dame. This year, the Sigma Beta chapter also partnered with the University of Notre Dame Indiana Gamma chapter of Tau Beta Pi. The number of people who participated in the grading was 22, of which five were from Pi Tau Sigma. The event went very smoothly due to the large number of graders who were present.

On April 4, 2012, the Sigma Beta chapter held a "Grad School and Careers Event," which consisted of an informal panel discussion on engineering futures. The panel was comprised of senior mechanical engineering majors, most of whom were members of Pi Tau Sigma, along with the faculty advisor. The purpose of the event was to expose underclassmen, predominantly sophomores and juniors, to the possibilities that lay ahead. The senior panel provided insights gained from internship experiences as well as career searches and the graduate school application process. Approximately 20 students attended the event. The chapter provided pizza and refreshments.

On April 11, 2012, the Sigma Beta chapter held a "Technical Electives Meeting." The purpose of the event was to inform underclassmen about the technical electives that were available to them in the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering. The timing of the event was very appropriate because the Fall 2012 class registration process was to commence the next week. A panel of senior members of Pi Tau Sigma, along with some new junior members of the

club, provided insights to the students who attended. Professor Bill Goodwine, who is Associate Chairman of the Department and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the department, also spoke about the technical electives available and clarified student questions. The students who attended, who numbered close to 40, overfilled the room that was booked for the event. This shows that interest for this event is high. In the future, the chapter will conduct a technical electives meeting each semester. The chapter provided pizza and pop for the event.

C. Other

Our new faculty advisor, Professor Joseph Powers, took over in January 2012. His energy and excitement has been a spark for the chapter and his leadership in the future will be an asset to the club.