PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2010-2011

Cincinnati Eta

A. Initiations

Two initiations were held during this academic year. To garner interest from potential invitees, typewritten letters were sent to qualifying Mechanical Engineering students congratulating them on their past academic accomplishments and giving them a brief background about the organization. Since there are so many honoraries on campus, this step is essential so that potential initiates know what sets Pi Tau Sigma apart from other organizations. Additionally, letters were sent to the parents of the qualifying students to further the recruitment efforts. This method was found to be very effective for Tau Beta Pi (Engineering Honorary). These letters written by Teik Lim (Mechanical Engineering Department Head) were individually addressed to the student's parents. Home addresses were given by the university database, as accessed by the Mechanical Engineering advisor. Knowing the debt that each college student is forced to manage, parents seeing the future benefits of the organization might be inclined to aid in their son or daughter's development by supplying the initiation fee.

The requirements for initiates were taken straight from Pi Tau Sigma. It is required that first term juniors be in the top 25% of their class, last term juniors be in the top 33% of their class, and first term seniors be in the top 35% of their class.

These letters also informed students about a brief information session discussing the organization and answering any questions that students may have before joining. All Pi Tau Sigma members were present for this meeting along with our faculty advisor Dr. Randy Allemang, a fellow Cincinnati Eta PTS member himself. The following week on December 1st, the first initiation was held where seven students were initiated. The initiates were asked to submit their dues and remain directly outside the room until the start of initiation when they were brought in single file. The ritual as presented on the Pi Tau Sigma website was then conducted through the use of a PowerPoint presentation so that the initiates could visualize the pictorial elements of the initiation. A laser pointed was also used to point out distinct features.

This initiation was followed up with sandwiches and an introduction to current Pi Tau Sigma members. After this introduction had occurred, a brief local history of the Cincinnati Eta chapter commenced. A brief meeting was then conducted to get members on the same page for upcoming events and to promote the organization's recruiting efforts in the spring.

A second initiation was held in the spring quarter on May 25th. Letters were again sent to the students congratulating them on their academic accomplishments. After the initiation, sandwiches and drinks were provided while explaining about the organization both locally and nationally. With co-op conflicts, two students were initiated into Pi Tau Sigma.

B. Chapter Activities

There are two other primary responsibilities of Pi Tau Sigma historically at the University of Cincinnati: the senior composite and the senior picnic. The first is the organization of the

Mechanical Engineering composite picture which shows the individual picture of each graduating Mechanical Engineering student along with each Mechanical Engineering professor. A signup sheet was passed around the two classes in the winter that all ME's were required to take, making sure that each student had the opportunity to get their picture taken. This picture was planned for February with retakes in March for those who were unavailable initially or who requested an alternate picture to be taken. A sitting fee of $20 was charged to each student which allowed them to have one sheet of photos as well as a composite picture to hang on their wall upon graduation.

The photographer has been used in years past and was very easy to work with throughout the entire process. A proof was sent around the PTS members so that any spelling or other grammatical errors could be corrected prior to printing. The individual pictures were sent in early May to the Mechanical Engineering Department office so that students could pick up the pictures at their leisure. The large Mechanical Engineering composite graces Baldwin Hall, which is the main Engineering building on campus.

The other key program that is held by our group is the senior picnic which occurs in the last few weeks of school. A budget for this event was submitted and approved, so that free food for all could be advertised. During this picnic, many hot dogs and hamburgers were cooked in a relaxed atmosphere on a Friday afternoon. Well over 60 Mechanical Engineering seniors and professors came out for this event as well as many underclassmen. Students could be seen tossing football and Frisbee while others were catching up with each other one last time before was parting ways at graduation. Another key part of this event was telling about our experiences to the underclassman. Over the last five years, we have learned a lot about engineering, succeeding in the workforce, time management, and overall methods to succeed in engineering. This took the form of preferred professors, preferred classes, cooperative education experiences etc. This allowed graduating seniors to share their unique experiences further promoting both Pi Tau Sigma and Mechanical Engineering. This was a great event enjoyed by all that attended. It is highly expected and appropriate that this event happen in the future.

This cookout is especially important for graduating seniors since there is no course during the last quarter that all Mechanical Engineers are required to take. Some students work with each other during their student design project but this is often limited to a small group of individuals. Additionally by this point in the spring term, many students have already accepted job offers and it is a great time to discuss the future and where each person is headed.

Unfortunately this year, no members were able to attend the convention from our chapter. This is very unfortunate due to timing, and it will be highly encouraged that at least one member attend this upcoming Convention at San Jose State University.

C. Other

A greater effort will be put forth in the upcoming year to transition the new officers. Being that this current Pi Tau Sigma is relatively small in size, students have the opportunity to take on significant roles just after initiation. Every effort will be made to increase the efficiency of this transition in the years to come.

A Mechanical Engineering Information Session was held in January of 2010, which could be easily continued in the years to come. This year, we decided to combine the senior picnic and the ME Information Session into one program held in the last few weeks of the winter quarter. A very comprehensive presentation was made by the former Chapter President Aaron Johnson that could be reapplied next year.

Lastly, our group did not fundraise this year to offset the cost of the senior picnic. However, since funding was obtained from the university this was not a big issue. However, small fundraisers could be conducted to raise money for the group in future years. This could be used to lessen the initiation costs for members.