FULL ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2017-2018

Rhode Island Sigma Phi Chapter

A. Initiations

In order to adhere to the standards imposed by Pi Tau Sigma, the President of the Rhode Island Sigma Phi Chapter, Joseph Mattson, along with the respective faculty advisor, Dr. Zongqin Zhang, procured a list of rising juniors and seniors that are eligible for membership within the Chapter. With this, an initial email was composed and sent to the students that were eligible for membership within the Chapter, with the contents describing the prestigious engineering honor society that they could be a part of. Also, a brief summary of the commitments for membership were described within the email, as well as the attendance of the induction ceremony as well as the one-time induction fee. In order to give ample time for a response from the potential candidates, a two-week grace period was given for responses in regards to the offer. Links were attached for both the Pi Tau Sigma website, as well as the Sigma Phi Chapter description. Following the two-week grace period, an email was sent out to those that responded back to the initial email chain. Within this, further detail was given in regards to the date and time for the induction ceremony.

With the day of the induction ceremony arriving, a classroom was reserved within the engineering building on the Kingston Campus, being Pastore Hall. Initiates were told to be present at 6:00pm sharp. In regards to the process to which the induction ceremony was carried out, being that there is only one executive member for the Rhode Island Sigma Phi Chapter, it was upon his responsibility to read the sections that each respective executive member was to read if present. The rising members that were present were active and responded to the cues designated within the Rituals of Pi Tau Sigma handout.

Upon the completion of the Rituals of Pi Tau Sigma, prior to leaving the induction ceremony, the President of the Chapter made sure to collect the one-time membership fee before passing around the Chapter Roll Book. Once the one-time fee was collected from the rising member of the honor society, they were then able to sign within the Chapter Roll Book.

Due to the advisor of the chapter being on Sabbatical Leave within the fall, an induction ceremony within the Fall Semester was not conducted. With this, for the 2017-2018 academic year, there was only a single induction ceremony, being conducted within the Spring Semester.

Spring 2018 Initiation Ceremony
Date Held: Monday, March 5th
Number of Students Qualified: 47 Members
Number of Students Initiated: 16 Members

B. Chapter Activities

Unlike past years, the President of the Rhode Island Sigma Phi Chapter wanted to see rising initiates participate in Welcome Days hosted by the University. Being various designated weekends throughout the semester, members and rising-members of the engineering honor society were asked to be present in order to represent not only the University's College of Engineering, but also the discipline of Mechanical Engineering. The Welcome Day lasted a total of four hours, with the members and rising-members of the honor society taking assigned shifts, standing at the respective table for the College of Engineering and interacting with upcoming freshman and parents who have questions in regards to the school and the Mechanical Engineering Program.

Prior to the President of the honor society graduating in May, both the faculty advisor and President scheduled a meeting with the students who were interested in executive positions for the 2018-2019 academic year. For the upcoming year, there were two students who expressed interest with an executive position within the Rhode Island Sigma Phi Chapter, being the President position and Vice-President position. During this meeting, the roles and requirements of each respective position were discussed, as well as the measures that need to be taken throughout the academic year in order to ensure that the Rhode Island Sigma Phi Chapter remain in Good Standing. Also, there was additional conversation in regards to how to increase member and chapter activity.

C. Other

From past activity within the Rhode Island Sigma Phi Chapter, it was noted that there were always complications in regards to lack of activity within the Chapter. This was brought up during the meeting at the end of the year, consisting of the faculty advisor, current President of the Chapter, and initiated rising-seniors that expressed interest within executive positions for the 2018-2019 academic year. A proposal that was brought up by the current President of the Rhode Island Sigma Phi Chapter was to participate within the University's S.M.I.L.E. (Science & Math Investigative Learning Experience) Program. The objective of this program is to serve as an academic enrichment program to students enrolled in grades four through twelve that are minorities or disadvantaged, encouraging S.T.E.M. (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) content within their future endeavors. Being only two Fridays within an entire semester, it would be a great opportunity for the Rhode Island Sigma Phi Chapter to be represented, promoting not only engineering but also the discipline of Mechanical Engineering.

An additional proposal that was pitched during this meeting was also from the current President, recommending that it would be in the Chapter's best interest to try and attend the annual conference that is to take in the Spring semester. If the members of the Chapter are to show interest early within the year, proper funding can be allocated to allow for a trip to the convention to occur. This will aid in the Rhode Island Sigma Phi Chapter remaining in Good Standing within the honor society, as well as promoting the University at a national convention.