PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2010 -2011

Boston University Alpha Mu

A. Initiations

Candidates for initiation are selected from the junior and senior classes based on the percentage requirements outlined in the Pi Tau Sigma Constitution and Bylaws. Potential candidates are then reviewed by the chapter's executive board and faculty advisor on the basis of personality and academic integrity. The Boston University Alpha Mu chapter requires no other prerequisites from candidates other than those prescribed by the national organization. Candidates are inducted following the PTS standard initiation ceremony and rituals. The executive board instructs the inductees of the ritual and history of Pi Tau Sigma in a formal setting. Following the initiation, the initiates and current members mingled and were served a dinner of pizza and soda provided by the chapter. The fall initiation was held on November 11th, 2010 and inducted 23 members. The spring initiation was held on April 20th, 2011 and inducted 5 members.

B. Activities

In the fall, our chapter hosted an annual Junior Pizza Social. This event was designed to get junior mechanical engineers together at one time so that they could converse with their mechanical engineering classmates, and ask some seniors who were present about junior and senior level classes, professors, and electives. Since all disciplines of engineering at Boston University typically share classes the first two years of prerequisite classes, the fall of junior year is the first time that many mechanical engineers take the mechanical-specific classes and the first time they have classes with all their junior ME colleagues. This year, the pizza social was co-hosted by Pi Tau Sigma and Sigma Gamma Tau, the aerospace engineering honor society. Pizza and soda dinner was provided by the societies.

In the spring, our chapter undertook a semester-long tutoring project in conjunction with the already established tutoring center at the College of Engineering. Demand for physics help at the tutoring center was extremely high on Thursdays in the spring, when most freshmen engineers take the mechanics section of physics. The staff at the tutoring center considered hiring an additional tutor to handle the excess physics students, but PTS members volunteered to take two hour shifts in the tutoring center during the times of highest demand for physics tutoring. The tutoring continued throughout most of the semester, but was stopped when demand for the tutoring dropped. The tutoring staff did express their gratitude to the PTS students who volunteered their time and expertise to help out the freshmen students. PTS also hosted an event during Engineers Week in February. A Nintendo Wii tournament was held and members, other students, and even some professors participated. Everyone who entered the free competition was given a chance to get a high score on a Wii Sports shooting game. A mechanical engineering

professor then came and played to earn the best score he could. Although his score was not the highest, winners of the competition were then determined by whoever scored closest to his score. Gift cards to Best Buy, Starbucks, etc. were awarded to the top three placers. There was very high participation leading to a successful and enjoyable event and break from midterms. Pizza and soda were also provided for the participants at the event.

The president of the junior class, Thomas Waldman, also attended the 2011 National Convention in Chicago, Illinois.