PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
2010-2011
University of Kansas Psi

A. Initiations

Mechanical engineering students in the top 25% of the junior class and top 33% of the senior class were invited to join Pi Tau Sigma (PTS). Initiates are required to complete an associate notebook that includes: Pi Tau Sigma on the cover sheet, a complete PTS information sheet regarding the national organization and local chapter, signatures from all professors and staff members in the mechanical engineering department, and a one-page essay describing the qualities of a leader. Initiates were asked to turn the documents in prior to the formal initiation.

Each initiate is escorted to a darkened room where the PTS symbol is illuminated on a desk. The initiate is asked to take a seat at the desk. PTS professors and officers are seated in the room, unseen by the initiate. The initiate was asked to state their name before the PTS professors and officers begin questioning. Questions are primarily related to PTS history and facts, University of Kansas facts, and fundamental engineering theories. The initiate was then asked to leave the room until all initiates were through the individual portion. All initiates were then presented with the Rituals of Pi Tau Sigma. All initiates, PTS professors, and PTS officers signed the PTS book. A celebratory dinner followed.

B. Chapter Activities

The Kansas Psi chapter provided a tutoring program for mechanical engineering students seeking help with their required coursework. The department office advertised the program to all mechanical engineering students. Interested students' information was forwarded to our tutoring coordinators. The tutoring coordinators matched students with tutors knowledgeable in the subject area they requested. Once the tutor had the student's contact information we allowed them to schedule tutoring when it best fit their schedules. We remained a contact for mediation, questions/concerns, and for administrative duties. At the end of the semester, tutors could either receive payment for their work or donate their services to the engineering club of their choice.

Tutors were selected based on performance in the classroom and desire to help. Tutors were required to attend a 30-minute tutor training prior to meeting with any students. In this meeting rules were discussed, including: meeting in a public place, respect for the student, and not completing deliverables of any type for the student. The training also included a segment on recommended tutoring methods.

The chapter plans to continue the tutoring program next year. A majority of the members have expressed interest in becoming involved with community service.

C. Other

None.