PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2016-2017

University of Kansas Psi

A. Initiations

Based on rankings by GPA, the top 25% of the junior class and top 35% of the senior class are invited to join Pi Tau Sigma (PTS) at the University of Kansas (KU). The names of the potential initiates are procured by the mechanical engineering academic advisor at the beginning of each new semester and sent to the chapter advisor (Dr. Carl Luchies), who passes these names on to the chapter president. Potential initiates are invited to an information session one week prior to the initiation ceremony and given information about the chapter and the requirements for joining. They are required to complete an associate notebook which includes a cover page featuring the symbols of Pi Tau Sigma, an information sheet that asks about the traditions of the national organization and the local chapter, signatures from all faculty and staff in the mechanical engineering department, and a one page essay describing the qualities of a leader and what they hope to contribute as a member of the Psi chapter of Pi Tau Sigma. Initiates are required to turn in these documents and the membership fee prior to the initiation ceremony. They also sign up for a "slot" in the initiation order so that the initiation ceremony can run efficiently.

The initiation ceremony takes place in the early evening on a weeknight so that member professors can attend. Each initiate is escorted into a darkened room where the PTS symbol is illuminated on a desk. The initiate is asked to take a seat at the desk. PTS active members and professors are seated in the room, unseen by the initiate. The initiate is asked to state their name. After a brief pause, professors and members begin questioning the initiate. Questions are primarily related to PTS history and facts, University of Kansas facts, mechanical engineering department facts, and fundamental engineering theories. Some of the questions are meant to test the initiate's knowledge, while some are humorous in nature. After three minutes of questioning, the initiate is told to rise and is escorted from the room. After all initiates have completed the individual portion of the initiation, they are invited back into the room and presented with the Rituals of Pi Tau Sigma by the president and vice president (or another officer). All initiates, members, and professors in attendance sign the PTS roll book. All are invited to a celebratory dinner at a local restaurant, paid for out of the Pi Tau Sigma budget allocated by the KU mechanical engineering department.

The fall initiation ceremony took place on Thursday, December 1st, 2016. Eleven (11) new members were initiated in this ceremony. The spring ceremony took place on Thursday, April 13th, 2017. Two (2) new members were initiated in this ceremony. One initiate could not be at this initiation and a private ceremony was held for her on Wednesday, April 19th, 2017. For this ceremony, the questioning portion was omitted and she was simply presented with the Rituals of Pi Tau Sigma. The president and secretary/treasurer were present for this ceremony.

B. Chapter Activities

The chapter meets monthly to stay in touch and work on planning initiation ceremonies and other activities. Often, the chapter president will converse with the head of the mechanical

engineering department to determine how the chapter can help support the activities of the department. In the fall semester, an opportunity arose to help the department update the plaques for scholarship recipients and other award recipients. These plaques had not been updated in years, so there were several hundred nameplates that needed to be screwed into place. A team of about ten volunteers from Pi Tau Sigma and the KU student chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) worked together for several hours to update these plaques.

Other activities the chapter took part in include testing and critiquing a beta version of a digital resource for advising mechanical engineering students, one-on-one tutoring coordinated by the mechanical engineering department, and advising for undergraduate students. The chapter also designed and ordered a t-shirt featuring the Greek letters of the organization on the front and an engineering drawing of the bent on the back to encourage chapter unity.

All officers and new initiates attended the Mechanical Engineering Department banquet and were honored as part of the ceremony.

C. Leadership Team

The leadership team for the 2016-2017 school year was:

- President: Erin Lanigan, erin.l.lanigan@gmail.com
- Vice President: Yuling Su, yulingsu@ku.edu
- Secretary/Treasurer: Mason Proctor, masonjproc@gmail.com

The incumbent leadership team for the 2017-2018 school year, elected March 2nd, 2017, is:

- President, Celso Carranza, ccarranza@ku.edu
- Vice President: Sai Mathi, s600m875@ku.edu
- Secretary: Aaron (AJ) Pope, a338p392@ku.edu
- Treasurer: Nick Jenia, nick.jenia@ku.edu

D. Future Plans

The future plans for the chapter lie in the hands of the incumbent leadership team. The chapter is always looking for more ways to support the mechanical engineering department including expanding the role of the chapter in advising and tutoring for undergraduate students. The chapter also plans to pursue opportunities for volunteer, outreach, and social events, some in collaboration with the KU ASME chapter or other student organizations. The chapter may also participate in the KU Engineering Expo, an opportunity for engineering student groups to lead educational and entertaining activities for local middle and high school students.