PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2016-2017

NDSU Pi Upsilon

A. Initiations

Mechanical engineering students at NDSU who placed in either the top 25% of the junior class, the top 35% of the senior class, or graduate students with a minimum 3.0 GPA were invited to join the NDSU Pi Upsilon chapter of Pi Tau Sigma. The invitations were sent via email and eligibility was determined based on a list received from the Office of Registration and Records at NDSU. Each semester the candidates were invited to an informational session about the organization. The president gave a presentation regarding the benefits of being a member of Pi Tau Sigma and some of the other members talked about their experiences at the national conference. After the informational session, a social activity took which allowed the prospective members and the current members to interact and get know one another in a relaxed setting. For the fall semester, we spent a couple of hours playing Billiards in the basement of the student union and in the spring semester we played board games.

After the informational session a list of interested students was made. The eligible students who expressed interest in joining were invited to the initiation night. Initiates were placed into a dimly lit classroom where the Pi Tau Sigma Key and Coat of Arms were illuminated on a projector. The initiates were seated at the desks and the Vice-President and President stood at the front of the room. The initiates were then presented with the Rituals of Pi Tau Sigma.

Two initiations were conducted during the 2016-2017 academic year. The fall initiation was held on November 17th, 2016. Four new members were initiated. The spring initiation was held on April 4th, 2017 and six new members were initiated. Between the two semesters, we inducted 10 new members and lost 7 members due to graduation.

B. Chapter Activities

During the school year our chapter holds monthly meetings. For many of these meetings we try to invite different guest speakers in order to help provide different educational opportunities to our members. In October 2016, Jim Kapphahn, a local realtor, gave a presentation on the process of purchasing a house. In November, Dr. Adam Gladen, the NDSU Mechanical Engineering Department's newest professor gave a presentation about his education and research background. During the spring semester our Vice President Karl Klindworth presented on his master's thesis project, a control system for a four wheel drive, four wheel steer robot. We also had a presentation by the Mechanical Engineering Department Chair, Dr. Alan Kallmeyer.

The other main activity our chapter is involved with is running a billiards night at the end of each semester. This event is held at the Fargo Billiards and Gastropub on the Friday of "Dead Week", the Friday at the end of regular classes before finals. All students and faculty within the Mechanical Engineering Department are invited. This event gives everyone a chance to relax

before finals start. The events were held on December 9, 2016 and May 5, 2017. Approximately eight people attended the December event and approximately 30 people attended May event. The cover charge per person was $5 and the organization ended up breaking even for both events.

This year six members were able to attend the 2017 Pi Tau Sigma National Convention held at Drexel University in Philadelphia. The attending members were able to fully participate in the convention's activates and obtained new information regarding chapter activities conducted by other chapters throughout the nation and how to improve chapter visibility and membership. The attending members learned more about Autodesk's involvement with Pi Tau Sigma and hope to encourage more members to participate in their hosted design events. One of our members, Andrew Kroll, was involved with the team that ended up winning the design swarm challenge.

NDSU Pi Upsilon continues to volunteer on campus at NDSU. There are three major areas where NDSU Pi Upsilon volunteered over the past year. Throughout the school year, different members of the organization will help the Mechanical Engineering Department by providing tours to prospective students. These tours cover the class rooms, computer labs and research labs. In October we had four members who volunteered to help with the Bison BEST high school robotics competition at NDSU. Different tasks included resetting the competition area, monitoring the pit area and grading design notebooks. In April, six members volunteered as facilitators and co-facilitators for the NDSU Science Olypiad, which is a science competition for high and junior high school students from around the state of North Dakota.

C. Other

None.