PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2015-2016

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 Pi Tau Sigma – NDSU Pi Upsilon Chapter. Candidates were invited to an informational session where the President gave a presentation regarding the benefits in being a member of the Pi Tau Sigma chapter. The invites were done through email with the eligible list received from the Office of Registration and Records at NDSU. The chapter had pizza and soda served for the session.

After the informational session a list of interested students was made. The list along with other interested students who could not make the informational was used to organize an 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 informationals and two initiations were done in the 2015-2016 academic year. One set was done in the fall, while the other in the spring. The fall initiation was held on October 29th, 2015. Five new members were initiated. The spring initiation was held on March 29th, 2016. At this initiation three new members were gained. Between the two semesters, we inducted 8 new members and lost 7 members due to graduation.

B. Chapter Activities

At the end of the fall and spring semesters the NDSU Pi Upsilon hosts a student and faculty event to help facilitate conversation between students and professors. Both the fall and spring events were held at the Fargo Billiards and Gastropub. The event encourages conversation between students and faculty outside of academics. The event is held during “dead week” (the week before finals) to encourage students to take a break from academics and finals. The events were held on December 11, 2015 and May 6, 2016. Approximately 30 people attended each, including students and professors. The cost per person was $5 and the organization did not profit from the event. The NDSU Pi Upsilon chapter broke even for both events, but in the future would like to start profiting from hosting the event. The flyer and sign-up sheet can be seen attached to the end of this document.

Approximately once a month, our chapter invited a guest speaker to give a presentation to improve our members overall education. Typically, these presentations are conducted by NDSU faculty members who discuss their research and ongoing projects. These presentations focused

on informing students about different areas of research currently being performed at NDSU. The attendees had the opportunity to discuss graduate school options and undergraduate research opportunities with the presenting professor. The other benefit of the presentations is that students had an opportunity to interact with professors outside of lectures.

This year five members were sent to the 2016 Pi Tau Sigma National Convention held at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. 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. Our chapter plans to implement some of the ideas learned from the convention to improve the quality of our members experience in NDSU Pi Upsilon.

Attending NDSU Pi Upsilon members to the National Convention

NDSU Pi Upsilon continues to volunteer on campus at NDSU. Two of the major volunteering events the chapter contributes is department tours and the Science Olympiad held at NDSU. NDSU Pi Upsilon continues to give tours of the Mechanical Engineering Department to prospective students. Members appreciate the honor to be the face of the NDSU Mechanical Engineering Department to potential students and their parents. All the members agree that giving the department tours not only helps out the department, but shows us how much we have learned throughout our years here in the ME program.. This year, we again volunteered as facilitators and co-facilitators at the NDSU Science Olympiad. This is a science competition held for high schools around the area. Nine of our members participated and accumulated about 50 service hours for NDSU Pi Upsilon.

NDSU Pi Upsilon Members Volunteering at the Electric Car Event at the Science Olympiad

C. Other

None.

Pi Tau Sigma Billiards Outing

Come join the organization for a break from studying to play billiards at The Gastro Pub! The event will be at the end of dead week on Friday, December 11th from 7-9pm. It is open to all mechanical engineering students and faculty. Please RSVP below, so that we can get an estimated count of billiard tables. Cost will be $5 a person and paid when you arrive. You are also allowed to bring someone outside of the mechanical engineering department as a +1. Contact ndsu.pts@gmail.com for questions.

Name	**+1**	**Name**	**+1**