2017-2018

Michigan Tech Sigma Iota

A. Initiations

Our initiation process is very similar to the rest of the chapters across the nation. At the beginning of each semester, we have a data group in the Mechanical Engineering department that will collect names and emails of the top 25% of juniors of the ME department as well as the top 35% of seniors. They then put those emails in a private group to prevent us from knowing the qualifiers exact GPA (because of privacy, it's against the law to know without consent). We then hold an information session to all qualifiers to show them how great of a society Pi Tau Sigma is, and give them a chance to agree to participate and become initiated or to pass. The information session is completely optional and very brief. We then open it for questions and discussion afterwards.

Our initiation is held a week or two after the information meeting. We hold the qualifiers outside of a dark room and order them in alphabetical order by their last names. Inside of the dark room is the President and Vice President at a table with the crest surrounded by lit candles. The qualifiers sit in chair in a line in the front of the room and the script for initiation is read. At the completion of the reading, we have the qualifiers sign the initiate book, and now they are categorized as "members" or "initiates".

Once the business side of the initiation is completed we all caravan to a downtown pizza restaurant for dinner and socializing to grow the relationship between the existing members and the newly initiated members.

Some miscellaneous details, our initiations are held within the first 3-6 weeks of the semester and we have had a minimum of nine (9) initiates in each semester.

B. Chapter Activities

Throughout the year, the members help the community and volunteer their time to a number of causes. In the fall, Michigan Tech hosts a "Make A Difference Day" that includes a variety of outdoor and indoor volunteer events that directly benefit the community or those less fortunate. It occurs on a Saturday in the month of October. This past academic calendar year, our chapter helped by shoveling snow and raking leaves. Yes, in the same day. On one side of town it was snowing so we helped shovel snow for a preschool and then upon finishing that we traveled to the other side of town to rake leaves in a cemetery. This event requires our members to dedicate an entire Saturday of their fall semester, which so conveniently usually falls around the first round of exams. It is a large time commitment and the volunteers are rewarded with a T-shirt and pizza.

The Sigma Iota chapter has yearly provided a fundraiser to the Mechanical Engineering department at Michigan Tech. Over the past years, we have sold weatherproof jackets with the Michigan Tech logo and "Mechanical Engineering" embroidered on them. A portion of the profits go towards supplying the jackets then the rest is invested back into the organization. But

this year (2017-2018) we expanded our selection of merchandise to not only jackets, but polo T-shirts and insulated drink tumblers. We require each of our members to dedicate one (1) hour of their time during the week to either run the sales table, or distribute merchandise after orders are received. It allows for customers (students and faculty) to interact face-to-face with the members, making it more of a personable purchase rather than distributing an order form online or via email. This year we boasted the largest amount of sales out of all years this fundraiser has been active.

The final, sizeable yearly event that we participate in as a chapter, is called the "Copper Dog 150". It is a 150-mile sled dog race that kicks off a couple of town north of where Michigan Tech is located. This is rarely considered a stereotypical volunteering event because it is so much fun. It begins on a Friday afternoon and volunteers have the choice of duties that range from coat check to dog handling, and from road guard to parking assistant. It is by far our largest event that we see members devoting their time towards. You would think it would be hard to get people to volunteer their time when it is snowing and -10 degrees Fahrenheit, but not at Michigan Tech. We have had a successful year and plan to keep up the involvement and pursue more activities for our members as well as our department as a whole. Stay tuned to find out what we have accomplished in the 2018-2019 academic year!

Our Convention participation has just gotten back on track. The Sigma Iota chapter has not been involved in the National Conventions in almost 6 years, so the E-board of the 2017-2018 academic year decided to change that norm. The President and Vice President attended the Convention in Coral Gables, FL hosted by the University of Miami. It was an incredibly well put together convention that we benefited from greatly, and upon return I believe our chapter also benefited greatly from the tactics we implemented that were learned from the Convention.

Our chapter meets bi-weekly in the Mechanical Engineering building and we keep the members updated on the operations of the E-board and any further planning of activities, volunteer events, etc. We try to keep the meetings on the shorter side because we understand people's busy schedules and if the meetings are planned to be very short and there's not enough information to fill the time, we will simply send out a lengthy but informative email.

C. Other

The only other thing that was not mentioned in this report was the total revamp of the organization within the E-board from the past academic calendar years. We transferred from unorganized file folders to a centralized Google Team Drive. With access available to the current and future E-board as well as the Advisor. A tremendous amount of work went in to organizing all past meeting minutes, fundraiser planning, etc. It is miles away from how it was when the 2017-2018 E-board took over.

We have prepped the next E-board (2018-2019) for success with all the resources they should need to succeed.