PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2016-2017

Fresno State Beta Gamma Chapter at CSU, Fresno

A. Initiations

Candidates for membership are considered on the basis of class standing. The top 25% of the Mechanical Engineering (ME) junior class and the top 35% of the senior ME class are eligible to become members. The PTS faculty advisor creates the eligibility list and gives the final list to the Fresno State (FS) Beta Gamma chapter president. Requirements for potential initiates include the following: i) complete eight hours of community service, four of which must be volunteering for MESA Saturday Academies, ii) attend two social events, iii) complete the signature sheet (ME faculty, chapter officers, active non-officer members of PTS), iv) polish and mount the PTS brass key, v) submit an up-to-date resume, vi) pay initiation fees, and vii) attend initiation ceremony.

Initiation starts with a gathering of all initiates followed by collection of the polished and mounted PTS brass keys, completed signature sheets, and membership fees from the initiates. The initiates are then blindfolded and instructed to stay in a line guided by a PTS member, while being led through the engineering complex until the initiation room is prepared. When the initiates arrive at the darkened, initiation room they are guided to their seats. The ceremony is conducted by the current chapter president and vice president who read from the initiation booklet and recite the ASME code of ethics and canons of PTS. Initiates are asked to respond accordingly. The only light in the darkened room is from the reading lamps for the president and vice president and the projection monitor that displays the PTS crest and key. The initiation ceremony ends with initiates becoming members after signing the membership roll book and performing the PTS handshake with the attendees of the initiation, including active members, officers, and faculty. The winner of the most creatively-mounted key plaque is announced and chapter officers for the next semester are elected. An all-college honors banquet organized by California Rho chapter of Tau Beta Pi is held the evening of the initiation and includes members of Pi Tau Sigma (PTS), Tau Beta Pi (TBP), Eta Kappa Nu (HKN), and Chi Epsilon (CE).

The Fall 2016 initiation was held on Thursday, December 8, 2016 and welcomed eleven members to PTS. The Spring 2017 initiation was held on Thursday, May 11, 2017 and welcomed four members of PTS.

B. Chapter Activities

Beginning in the Fall 2016 semester, our chapter introduced Dog Bones, which is a system to get members more involved in PTS events all semester. This points system includes social events being worth 20 points each and volunteering for MESA Saturday Academies is worth 30 points each. Each semester members are required to obtain 50 points in order to keep an active membership until their graduation. During the Fall 2016 semester a resume and LinkedIn workshop was hosted by PTS FS Beta Gamma chapter. Before resumes were submitted, this workshop gave tips to initiates and members on how to present their resume. In addition, tailgate events were organized by the California Rho chapter of Tau Beta Pi for football and baseball

games with PTS FS Beta Gamma providing supplies and food as needed. The MESA Saturday Academies are held one or two times during each semester and are all-day activities. Members of the engineering honor societies interact with middle school and high school students through events related to engineering. A social event each semester is a mandatory scavenger hunt for all initiates and is co-organized by PTS FS Beta Gama and Tau Beta Pi California Rho for potential initiates in both organizations. The scavenger hunt is held to give initiates a chance to get to know members, officers, and other initiates as they compete to win. The as-cast PTS keys and plaques are distributed to potential initiates at the conclusion of the scavenger hunt and initiates are instructed to be creative throughout the semester so as to turn in the finished product on the day of initiation. Toward the end of the semester, a key-polishing event is held in an effort to give tips on how initiates can produce the shiniest key. In Spring 2017, a general meeting was held to vote on two chapter amendments, both of which passed. The first new amendment states that any initiate who does not show up on the day of initiation must be invited back and cannot initiate during that semester. The second amendment states that any initiate who submits an unfinished key or plaque will be dismissed from initiation. Also in the Spring 2017 semester, three members of Pi Tau Sigma FS Beta Gamma chapter attended the national PTS 2017 convention at Drexel University in Philadelphia on 24-27 February 2017. As a chapter we were able to take pictures and share our experience with other members.

Top Left: National PTS 2017 convention held at Drexel University in February 2017
Top Right: Fall 2016 scavenger hunt at Woodward Park in Fresno
Bottom Right: National PTS 2017 convention held at Drexel University, Independence Hall