PI TAU SIGMA ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

2014-2015

TEXAS SIGMA RHO

A. INITIATIONS

The initiation procedures for the 2014-2015 academic year for the Texas Sigma Rho chapter are listed as follows, and closely match those performed the previous year.

The candidates for initiation were chosen based upon their grade point average, academic standing with the university, and year of study. Candidates had to be in the top 25% of their class based upon GPA if they were juniors, and in the top 30% of their class if they were seniors. No freshmen or sophomores were invited. In the Fall 2014 semester, 119 students were invited to join Texas Sigma Rho. In the Spring 2015 semester, 187 students were invited. The President and Vice-President collaborated together and determined the candidates by sorting and filtering a spreadsheet provided of the students in the department by the university.

Several requirements were placed upon the candidates before they could be fully initiated as members into the Texas Sigma Rho chapter. The first requirement was to attend an informational session. Several info sessions were held each semester in order to inform the candidates what Pi Tau Sigma is, what the Texas Sigma Rho chapter does, and to answer any questions they may have. These were attended by the President and some of the other officers depending upon their availability, including the Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Another requirement was for the candidates to take one of their engineering textbooks and have various professors in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering department sign the inside cover of the textbook. This requirement is a good experience for the candidates to familiarize themselves with their professors, and it has been a long-standing tradition of the Texas Sigma Rho Chapter.

Two initiation ceremonies were held in the 2014-2015 year, one in the spring and one in the fall. The first ceremony was held December 2, 2014. 16 candidates were officially initiated into the Texas Sigma Rho chapter of Pi Tau Sigma. The second ceremony was held April 30, 2015. 18 initiates were officially initiated into the Texas Sigma Rho chapter of Pi Tau Sigma.

B. CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The Texas Sigma Rho chapter participated in several activities during the 2014-2015 year. Texas Sigma Rho had a presence at many of the activities run by the College of Engineering as well as the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering department. These include the College of Engineering Welcome Bash and the Explore MAE event for freshman. At both of these events, Texas Sigma Rho had a table, poster, and informational materials to explain what Pi Tau Sigma was and what it meant to be a member. This community engagement helped spread awareness of the organization throughout the campus.

Other activities include attending Engineering Student Council meetings at the university each month. Representing our organization at each of these meetings gave us more funding for trips and other events held as the Engineering Student Council is a primary source of funding for engineering organizations on campus. A designated officer was sent to each meeting to represent Texas Sigma Rho.

Texas Sigma Rho held one member meeting in the fall, and one in the spring. These meetings were held to facilitate the general business of the organization, including planning events, electing new officers, and informing the members of any necessary information. In the fall meeting, new officers were elected including the Vice-President and Treasurer.

Two members of the Texas Sigma Rho chapter, the Vice-President and the Engineering Student Council Representative attended the annual Pi Tau Sigma convention at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the spring semester. Upon their return they presented a report detailing their experience at the convention and recommendations to improve the current Texas Sigma Rho chapter after talking to other members.

Several members and officers of the Texas Sigma Rho chapter graduated in both the fall and spring of the 2014-2015 school year. These students had the opportunity to purchase and wear the traditional Pi Tau Sigma stole and chords during the graduation ceremony. A large majority chose to wear these items during graduation and proudly represented the only international mechanical engineering honor society.

C. OTHER

This year, the Texas Sigma Rho chapter of Pi Tau Sigma participated in several university events, held various meetings, elected new officers, and attended the national Pi Tau Sigma convention. A total of 34 new members were inducted into the organization and several old members are returning to school the next academic school year. Moving forward, the Texas Sigma Rho chapter has a bright future ahead of it. It has the membership levels, participation, and funds to be able to hold more events, increase campus awareness, and give back to the university. This will allow the Texas Sigma Rho chapter to grow and prosper, while at the same time upholding the tradition and legacy of the Pi Tau Sigma honor society.