Pi Tau Sigma Annual Chapter Report

2016-2017

Central Florida Delta Sigma

This document outlines the initiation activities, chapter activities, and other events performed by the Central Florida Delta Sigma Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma at the University of Central Florida for the 2016-2017 academic year.

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A. Initiations

The Central Florida Delta Sigma chapter has continued its growth in the past twelve months. The fall induction ceremony was held on Wednesday, November 16th, 2016 and the chapter welcomed a total of 8 new members. The following spring induction ceremony was held on Wednesday, April 5th, 2017 when the chapter welcomed 11 new members.

The new candidates were invited to join the chapter based on the requirements documented in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Inductee requirements

	Eligible Group	Maximum Active Members
First term Juniors	Upper 25%	17%
Last term Juniors	Upper 33%	25%
First term Seniors	Upper 35%	33%
Last term Seniors	Upper 35% (upon approval process)	33%

Each qualified candidate was contacted through UCF's knight's email, inviting them to attend an initial information session about Pi Tau Sigma, its objectives, and activities for the current semester. Sessions were held in both the fall and the spring semesters to encourage development of the club and increase awareness in the qualified student body of the benefits of joining Pi Tau Sigma. The sessions included officer introductions and leadership profile presentations that familiarized organization of the club to the initiates. Sections II and IV of the chapter manual were also read to introduce the organization's ideals and functions to the potential candidates.

Upon showing an interest in joining, after attending the information session, the following requirements were placed upon the individuals to pursue membership:

1. Bi-weekly meeting attendance required for all initiates
    a. One excused absence accepted
    b. Multiple excused absences upon approval from leadership
2. Attendance to at least one of the two social activities each semester
3. One hour of volunteer service for fundraising events
4. Learn all active members' names

Upon completion of these activities to the satisfaction of the leadership, the initiates were formally invited to participate in the induction ceremony. The induction ceremony was a formal event requiring professional dress and etiquette. The ceremony was held in a meeting room with

low lighting and the bent was prominently displayed via the projector, illuminating the room with gold and azure. The President and Vice President stood behind the podium as they guided the new initiates through the induction ceremony according to the rituals of Pi Tau Sigma as outlined in the organization's documentation. The initiates were congratulated and were made aware of the honor of becoming members of Pi Tau Sigma. This was followed by the first handshake and bent ceremony where the club's President passed on the secret handshake and distributed the bents to the new members. Following the induction ceremony, new members were introduced to the chapter's advisor, Dr. Alain Kassab.

B. Chapter Activities

The Central Florida Delta Sigma chapter organized and participated in several events throughout the year. Delta Sigma organized two chapter fundraising events, one per semester. The Fall fundraiser was a breakfast food sale held in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. The Spring fundraiser was held as a partial proceeds event at a local restaurant. The restaurant offered to give 30% of the money raised through dining back to the club. Both events were open to anyone who wanted to help support the club and invitations were sent throughout the Engineering department. The chapter raised funds and awareness for the organization and built its credibility in the eyes of fellow engineering organizations. With participation from each member, the chapter displayed the values of Pi Tau Sigma in their involvement. The officers for the 2017-2018 year will be maintaining the involvement of the club and all of its members in future events. Continuing the tradition from the previous year, Delta Sigma voted on the most effective professor and faculty advisor, and presented them with Professor and Advisor of the year awards respectively.

Following previous years of success, the Delta Sigma chapter continued with two team building events per semester, the goal being continued growth of comradery and friendship between members and even alumni. By engaging in a daylong, voluntary team building activity, a definite sense of community was developed and strengthened over the course of the semester. At each semester's end, there was a noticeable communal bond between active members.

C. Other

As shown in the previous sections, Delta Sigma has continued along its path to making its chapter more than just an honor society. The chapter has become an organization committed to Pi Tau Sigma's ideals and acts as a community that is dedicated to academic excellence, shares their knowledge and skills with their fellow students, encourages friendship and fellowship between members, and pushes its members along their paths to success. Increased involvement among alumni has also helped with the mentorship of current members and an increased awareness of the engineering field among current members.

Delta Sigma will continue to seek other organizations to work with and through cooperation, build a greater involvement in the community. The chapter will also strive to develop more activities in the upcoming academic year. Finally, it will continue to create non-academic related events to promote community growth and friendship within the organization as well as with other organizations.

The officers for the 2017-2018 school year have displayed a great desire to see the club continue to grow and succeed. Immediately after being appointed as officers, they all began to talk about ways in which they see the club expanding itself and generating more of a following by students in the engineering field. The Delta Sigma chapter still desires the chance to hold a future Pi Tau Sigma convention at the University of Central Florida and the motivation displayed by the new officers of the upcoming school year looks very promising to keep that chance alive.