Phi Kappa Phi UNR Chapter Meeting  
Minutes: January 14, 2015

Present: Derek Furukawa (President), John Pettey (Ex-officio President), Kevin Stevens (Vice-President) Tamara Valentine (Treasurer), Daniel Villanueva (Secretary), Reena Spansail (Student Vice-President)

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 PM by Chapter President Furukawa, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously (Pettey/Stevens).

Old Business
1. Recap of Service Project: Furukawa and Tanaka reported that the event had a very small PKP presence (Furukawa, Tanaka and Athena) but those who were there put in good service. A shed was moved and PKP members helped a lot with the logistics of the move. Also, bikes were repaired. It was a good event in terms of recruitment because PKP members answered questions from others about the Society, and it is definitely recommended to schedule another service project again, this time after the initiation in April in order to get maximum interest from potential inductees.

New Business
1. Preliminary Report on PKP Dissertation Fellowship: Pettey is one of the readers for the PKP committee awarding 25K in fellowships to doctoral candidates who are already in the writing stage of the dissertation. He reported the majority of applications came from scientists and engineers. The committee reviewed materials from 104 candidates, ranking their 4 parts: Dissertation proposal, advisor’s recommendation, cover letter and cv, all presented in such a way that best explains how the fellowship will serve to aid completion of the dissertation and how consonant the candidate’s approach to research and character represent the mission of PKP. Pettey reported three major concerns with the applications: Many did not contain an advisor’s recommendation, many did not provide evidence the dissertation was in the writing stage, and many cv’s were padded in various ways. Pettey suggests the following in terms of advertisement of the fellowship among our graduate members moving forward: A) Find out which members are in the writing stage and thus eligible for the fellowship; and B) Distribute flyers to the graduate school and colleges/departments to publicize the fellowship. Valentine asked if PKP-created flyers were available, and Furukawa indicated he had been sent some. He will transfer these and other PKP program flyers to Valentine.

2. Phi Theta Kappa Students: Villanueva was approached by Christy Abercrombie in the Office of Prospective Students in Las Vegas to see how both Honors and PKP could be advertised among members of PTK, the community-college Honor society with similar membership criteria to PKP. Villanueva was nominated to draft a flyer or postcard for such students, with the thought being that not only CSN could be reached, but TMCC, WNC and GBC as well. Furukawa will speak to Adam Stolz and Kari Emm to determine the best way to proceed with this in Northern Nevada.

3. Spring 2015 Initiates: Furukawa has requested a list of qualifying UNR undergraduates and graduate students from Arthur Chenin for April induction invitation purposes. Faculty names were then solicited for membership, and Marcelo Vazquez (Associate Dean of Students-Furukawa), Daniel Enrique Perez (FLL-Pettey), Katharine Schweitzer (PHIL-Villanueva) and
Brett van Hoesen (Fine Arts- Spansail) were suggested for contact. PKP Members’ names in italics were tasked with contacting the potential inductees, and a report will be given at the next meeting as to whether the faculty above would be willing to be inducted if nominated. Villanueva stressed that in addition to academic excellence, the willingness of a potential inductee to participate actively in the life of our Chapter would have to be a key consideration in the nomination process. We are not limited to four candidates, but if any more than the above come to mind, Furukawa requested he be kept in the loop as they are contacted.

4. Honorary Society Concerns: Valentine explained the e-mails Honors has received from Honorsociety.org asking Honors to remove the notification that the Honors Program was not connected in any way to Honorsociety.org and to contact the ACHS to determine if questions existed as to the utility of Honorsociety.org or other Honors Societies not PKP or Golden Key. Valentine mentioned that a new alert was placed on the Honors “Honors Societies” page whose wording was vetted by UNR General Counsel and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Instruction. A discussion as to changes to that wording ensued, but ultimately the revised wording as currently stands on the website was supported without changes.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 11th, 5:00 PM, Honors Program (general members)

Meeting adjourned by Furukawa at 5:12 PM.