Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 08 Semi-Annual Meeting
Minutes: April 22, 2015

Present: Derek Furukawa (President), Kevin Stevens (Vice President), John Pettey (Past-President), Daniel Villanueva (Secretary), Tamara Valentine (Treasurer), Luke Tanaka (Student Vice-President), Brianna Mehlhaff (Student Vice-President), Jena Valenzuela, Marcelo Vazquez, J. Tyler Ballance, Stacey Muse, Chris Mikulich-Cook, Islam Mantawy, Bonnie Wood, Shay Daylami.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chapter President Furukawa, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously. (Tanaka/Pettey).

Prior to the approval of the minutes, Furukawa explained to all present (particularly new members) the structure and schedule of Chapter meetings (run by faculty, but every member has a vote and voice on most issues, our minutes are available online, and we have monthly officer meetings).

Old Business
2015 Initiation Ceremony Recap: Furukawa solicited comments about what went well and what could be improved for next year’s Initiation. He felt there was a good turnout relative to last year but that it was still important to see why so many invited initiates did not attend. The PTK Chapter Advisor from TMCC was also unable to attend. Pictures have been placed on the Chapter Facebook page and are getting some new views. Several at the meeting suggested that a Wednesday at 3 PM (or any non-Friday afternoon) was not the best time for the ceremony due to various course or work conflicts. Valentine stated “We’ve tried them all” (in terms of other times and days) but that Friday afternoon might potentially be better than other afternoons during the week. Furukawa mentioned that nationally, most Chapters initiate their new members on a weekday evening. He will create and send out a survey to new initiates to see when might be best for them, knowing that an evening event might make it more likely that families would attend. Ballance suggested making the event more formal, holding it off campus, perhaps The Grove, and including a dinner to be paid for with community sponsors. Furukawa said he would include this option to the survey.

New Business
1. Spring Event Planning:
   a. Social Events – Several items were suggested, including an end-of-semester social and a potential service project (see b). Stevens proposed a set of meetings that would have an academic focus such as lectures, thesis presentations, book discussions, etc. Furukawa and others supported the re-animating of the Literacy Grant project, which was submitted last year to PKP HQ but was not chosen for funding.

   b. Service Events – Events suggested here included a book drive for Friends of Washoe County Public Libraries (Ballance) and a literacy drive through United Way (Muse).

   c. Student Organization Planning – Furukawa updated the members on the structure and ideal goals of a student PKP affiliate on campus. He stated that approximately 30% of Chapters nationally have a student-specific affiliate (= a student group which puts on its own activities but has a liaison person to the official PKP campus Chapter). He indicated
there was definite interest among PKP student members at UNR in having their own organization, but they did want more opportunities for engagement.

2. Student Vice President:
   a. Overview of the Position: Furukawa briefly described the duties of the position of Student Vice President, including the number of such VP’s. As Spansail is graduating, space is available for at least one more Student Vice President, and Furukawa stated that any student member having interest in the position should contact him. Visibility of the Chapter and student affiliate on campus is also a concern, and Furukawa suggested that T-shirts (already on hand!) or Greek-letter items could be ordered for students to wear to increase visibility and esprit de corps.

   b. Solicitation of Student Interest: See above point.

Other Discussion Items
Valentine expressed an interest in getting more PKP members who live in the community involved in the activities of our Chapter. Another idea she mentioned was a “historian’s project” – to look through old yearbooks in Morrill Hall to find PKP member and Chapter pictures, and post these online or elsewhere to demonstrate the long history of PKP on our campus. She noted there is a PKP “history box” in the Knowledge Center’s archive room. Finally, she reminded the Chapter that a postcard for recruitment and outreach to community colleges generally and PTK chapters specifically in both Southern and Northern Nevada needs to be drafted and circulated.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 20th, 4:00 PM, Honors Program Office

Meeting adjourned by Furukawa at 5:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Villanueva, Secretary