Phi Kappa Phi UNR Chapter Meeting  
Minutes: January 22, 2014

Present: John Pettey (President), Derek Furukawa (Vice President), Tamara Valentine (Treasurer), Daniel Villanueva (Secretary), Stephanie Bor, Darrell Lockhart, Nancy Markee, Luke Tanaka, Brianna Mehlhaff.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Chapter President John Pettey.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously (Valentine/Furukawa).

Old Business
1. Speaker for Induction Ceremony: Pettey reported that Bor has agreed to be the guest speaker. He still needs to receive a biography and speech title from her.

2. Faculty Grant Notification: Pettey sent the notification to be disseminated via the Provost’s announcements e-list last week, but it was sent out a week too early. Thus, he will send it out next week again and then monthly. It was also sent to all Chapter 08 members via e-mail.

3. New Faculty to Chapter 08: Pettey has heard back from James McClenahan (who clarified that he did not have a Ph.D.) He is glad to accept induction into PKP. However, Pettey has not heard back from Stevens or Laden as to their interest.

New Business
1. President’s Letter: No Spring 2014 President’s Letter exists yet, but Pettey said he will draft one soon and transfer to Villanueva for the web page.

2. National Officer Nominations: Pettey asked if there was interest on the Chapter Board to nominate anyone for a national PKP officer position. Furukawa said we may not want to because our Chapter does not yet have a national profile – better to have board members serve on national committees first and work their way up. Valentine asked what would be gained by nominating a national officer candidate this year. No decision was taken and no motions made but any interested officer can speak with Pettey.

3. Report on Orlando PKP Workshop (Partnership for Success): Furukawa stated there were about 30 Chapters present, including two student VP’s and many Chapter officers. The overall theme was to exchange ideas on how each local Chapter promotes itself on campus and how it demonstrates that it is the most prominent option among academic honor societies. Two items particularly stressed were the use of social media and the structure and integration of student
officers in the overall Chapter activities, goals and publicity. Several Chapters have relatively independent student sections, with planning of things like “Geek Week” and coordination of information sessions on campus honor societies. Also, the annual Induction Ceremony can be used to gain more advantages and recognition as the premier interdisciplinary honor society on campus. PKP-specific items which lend visual value to a student’s graduation wear (stoles, medallions, cords) were seen to be effective, especially if no other campus honor society had their members wear similar items. Increasing the use of PKP Chapters to be part of informational events on scholarship and fellowship presentations was also mentioned as a good strategy. Finally, inviting sophomores to Induction Ceremonies who might qualify for official induction the following year, asking them to stand and be recognized and presenting them with certificates or the like, was additionally seen as a good recruiting and profile-raising tool.

In the discussion which followed, Valentine was not in favor of actual certificates for sophomores, and also had questions as to who should be invited as a sophomore (what class rank, etc. –top 7.5%) since it could not be guaranteed that who was in the top 7.5% in sophomore year would also be in that group and thus induction-worthy as a junior. She also asked if the invitations should be formal paper invitations or if e-mail would suffice, and to ensure that RSVP’s were solicited. Pettey said he could help with inviting sophomores, and Furukawa suggested that only the top 5% of sophomores be invited to make it more likely that these same students would qualify for induction the following year.

4. PKP Information Day Planning: It was decided there would be two sessions planned by students: Tuesday, March 11th (afternoon) and Wednesday, March 12th at 6:00 PM. Valentine requested that a discussion among student VP’s begin now, cc’ing both her and Pettey, to ensure proper coordination of the event. This communication should also include who will be responsible for getting the PKP powerpoint presentation and how it will be transferred to that person.

5. Script for Induction Ceremony: Pettey wanted to begin considering the agenda for the induction ceremony as soon as possible. Valentine will approach faculty to play various roles in the ceremony, and also requested that known dates of Spring events be put in the minutes.

Tuesday, March 11: PKP Information Session (place/time TBA)
Wednesday, March 12: PKP Information Session (place TBA/6:00 PM)
Tuesday, April 8: PKP Induction Ceremony, 2:00-5:00 PM, JCSU Ballroom

6. Literacy Project Grant: Spansail and Tanaka met over the holiday break to discuss two possible ideas for a literacy project grant. Descriptions of both follow:
1. Coding Project

The goal of the Coding Project would be to promote programming literacy in children ages 10 to 14. The successful implementation of this project would require the partnership with the Computer Science and Engineering Department at UNR as well as the help of several CS clubs on campus like ACM to develop materials and provide instruction.

The UNR PKP chapter would utilize the grant to begin instructing students at a local after-school/weekend program, such as the Boys and Girls Club, in basic computer programming. For the first year, we would seek to develop a basic curriculum that can be built upon and may be able to utilize other online resources like Code Academy. In subsequent years, we can re-apply for the grant, which can be used to provide computers, software, and the means to provide instruction that builds upon the material from previous years.

Ultimately, we would seek to create a type of instruction that would provide an elementary introduction to coding with the goal of exposing children to the world of computer science and to show that coding is completely possible. Furthermore, the materials created would be designed such that they require little input from CS proficient individuals and would be sustainable.

2. Historical Artifact Box

As 4th grade classes are required to learn about NV history, the idea is to create either a physical “artifact box” with items of historical importance to be collected by PKP members and donated to a traveling exhibit which can give teachers, particularly in rural schools, access to useful and engaging pedagogical aids. This would begin in Reno (Washoe County School District) and then expand farther north and east. Title I schools would be targeted at first.

A website component would also be developed to publish written essays of students who have interacted with the artifacts in the box, and to collect lesson plans and other pedagogical materials related to the activities with the box.

The primary cost associated with this box is the cost to create and collect artifacts for it, and then to purchase domain space to create and maintain an online presence. Additionally, considerable help from the Computer Science Department (students, faculty) and from the College of Education (students, faculty) would have to be solicited to make it a success.

After a short discussion, the sense among the members was that the Historical Artifact Box project would be the one most worth pursuing. Valentine agreed that budgetary concerns are paramount and thus a precise budget would need to be developed by the submission due date, which Tanaka stated was April 1. Markee agreed that details of the involvement of faculty would be an essential part of the Box project proposal. Valentine suggested creating a specific due date and timeline for submitting the proposal to our Chapter for official endorsement.

7. Induction Ceremony Invitations: Valentine stated she had requested the data of eligible juniors, seniors and graduate students for PKP induction this year. These
will be programmed into OEP soon, and followup e-mails will then need to be sent out.

8. Website Updates: Villanueva reminded the Chapter of the updates he has made to the website and solicited further comment from members as to what improvements still need to be made.

Next Meeting: The Chapter’s next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 19th at 3:00 PM in the Honors Program.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Villanueva (Chapter Secretary)