

AC 2010-553: REVIVING AN ASEE STUDENT CHAPTER: TAKING A STUDENT CHAPTER FROM DORMANT TO ACTIVE

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Reviving an ASEE Student Chapter: Taking a Student Chapter From Dormant to Active

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ASEE Student Chapter, University of Texas at Austin

Objective

To document the successful re-activation and growth of the previously dormant ASEE student chapter at the University of Texas at Austin.

History of UT chapter

- 1997 ASEE student chapter first established at UT
- 2007 Chapter became dormant due to loss of key officers
- 2008 Chapter re-activated with a new set of officers (and the same faculty sponsor)
- 2010 Second generation of new officers assume responsibility for chapter

Re-activation of UT chapter

- Faculty advisor (Prof. Ronald Barr) solicited a few volunteer student officers, mostly from his department.
- These officers organized events, with an emphasis quality not quantity.
- The need for more volunteers and officers was advertised at all events, and the officer list grew steadily.
- The 2009 ASEE annual conference in Austin helped attract volunteers for the student chapter volunteers.**

Organizing events

- Top priority is for each event to be informative.**
- Create new events to recur annually. Refine successful events, and replace unsuccessful events.
- Serve food and drinks (e.g. pizza and soda) whenever possible.
- Try to always have events on the same day of the week and time. Avoid conflicts with other organizations.
- Always advertise via e-mails and fliers within one week of event.



Sample events

- First event of the year: Info. session, social, and officer election
- Speaker meeting: Tips for academic job application process, led by faculty with experience as a department head
- Speaker meeting: Tips for writing NSF GRFP applications, led by faculty who have experience judging these applications
- Panel session of three Assistant Professors: "The Top Five Things I Wish I Knew Before I Became a Professor"
- Graduate student luncheon: Discussion about engineering post-doctoral experiences, including several post-docs at UT
- Host an event for "Explore UT" university-wide open house for general public (especially K-12)
- Graduate student luncheon: Discussion about tips for making a research poster
- Speaker meeting: What it is like to work at a government laboratory, led by a NETL engineer visiting UT for business

Funding

- Solicit funds from each engineering department heads. Start early!
- Emphasize cross-disciplinary, graduate student focus of ASEE student chapters.
 - Prepare a common "pitch" in advance (annual report, budget, and previous donations).
 - Be concise and professional.

Officers

- Officer meetings once every 2-4 weeks, depending on chapter events.
- Each officer plans at least one event.
- Designated department liaisons advertise events via fliers and bulk e-mails. Ask departmental staff to send bulk e-mails.
- Several officers show up early and stay late for each event.

Always be looking for new officers!

Acknowledgements

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