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.

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 flyers within one week of event.

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 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.

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 flyers 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!**

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