MI-Gamma: The Cornerstone

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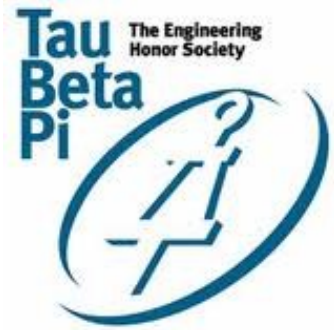
migamma.org

Electee/Actives Meeting 1

A Note From your External Vice President Kevin Joseph:

Hi TBP! In case you were wondering about the bylaw change I am proposing, I have written this short blurb to help you understand the motivations. In a nutshell, I am proposing that we make the choice of External Vice Presidents (EVPs) the result of an application and interview rather than an election. You can read the text of the bylaw change in the announcements.

I think that this will be a beneficial change because the External Vice Presidents are highly specialized positions that have much different responsibilities than that of any other officer position. It makes sense to move to an application process in order to ensure that the best team can be chosen to run the Honors Brunch and Career Fair. A cohesive team for Career Fair benefits not only TBP, but the entire College of Engineering. An interview process will allow for further review of candidates and their ability to work in a team, which I believe is necessary due to the huge commitment required for Career Fair.

The planned logistics look like this: The current EVPs and the student voting members of the advisory board (President, Vice President, Secretary) will review the applications and interview candidates. The applications will be sent out three weeks before the elections meeting (traditionally the week of E/A II). The interviews will be conducted before elections, in order to give the applicants that weren't chosen a chance to run for other positions. The decision will be made immediately after interviews have been conducted and the two selected candidates will be announced at Elections.

Possible interview questions for the External Vice President position:

- What qualities and experiences will make you a great Career Fair director?
- Do you have any suggestions for improving the fair?
- Have you previously been involved in the Career Fair (either as a volunteer or committee chair)?
- Have you previously been involved in the Honors Brunch?

The application will also consist of technical questions that test the applicant's ability to answer questions from clueless HR people. It may sound simple, but it can be one of the most aggravating parts of being a Career Fair director. If this bylaw passes, I encourage you to apply! Being a Career Fair director has been one of the most rewarding parts of being in TBP, and I am definitely available to answer questions if you are interested. Just send me an email at kevijose@umich.edu.

Some dates to keep in mind....

- *Bullpen Halloween Party—Oct 24, 7-11pm (sign up on the website!)*
    Pumpkins, candy, cider, cookies, decorations, costume contest! **[LEGIT!]**

- *TBP Alternative Spring Break Participation Application Deadline November 7 at 11:59pm*
- *Electee turned Active: Your Initiation is Saturday, December 8, 4-6pm*

A note from your Publicity Chairs:

If you have a quick relevant announcement to send to all the TBPeople, send it to ryanchen@umich.edu

If you have something fun or interesting to write a paragraph about = or art, poetry (freestyles!), mazes, puzzles, YouTube videos, blog links, ANYTHING—send it to yours truly, nickruff@umich.edu. *And I'll put it in the next Cornerstone!!!!!!!*   *An awesome way to win electee group points!*

CHECK OUT MIGAMMA.ORG TO SEE OUR AWESOME WEBSITE & PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS!

NATIONAL CONVENTION RECAP

How Michigan Gamma Won Convention

By Mike Hand

Ok first off, I'm not going to artificially build up your hopes – we did not win the R.C. Matthews "Most Outstanding Chapter" award. However, that is only the formal award for convention. Winning convention itself is a little more subtle and isn't publicly announced, but there is a bit of a process.

The prologue

National Convention started off pretty much the same way this year as every year. Elson and Pritpaul led the charge of advisors (along with Dan Becker and Nathan Rowley) and headed down to Lexington, KY the night before Convention officially began so that Elson and Dan could be present to recruit graduate students for the College at the annual convention career fair. Ariel Rose, Chris McMullen, Mike Boyd, Nick Cobane, and I left at the crack of dawn the morning convention started, and, per tradition, started off by heading the wrong way on I-75. Once that was straightened out we continued the drive of my bright blue, thoroughly Michigan-emblazoned car through the heart of Buckeye territory without a scratch (though we were decently soaked from the rainstorm that passed through while we got lunch). We checked in on time and per tradition, no one attended the formal start to convention (I think the President of the Association just says we're open and hits the gavel and that's that). Anywho this brings us to:

Step 1: The Opening

Like every good TBP meeting, National Convention has an agenda – a long one. Unlike any of our meetings, they actually ask the members if this agenda is acceptable – it always is. There will then be a motion to formally approve the agenda for convention. Step 1 of winning convention is to be the chapter to second this motion (it is not a hard requirement for winning, but it gets you a long way). When the motion was presented MI-G yelled a second into a deathly quiet room, setting the stage for future seconding greatness.

Score at the end of Step 1: MI-G 10 – Opponent 0.

Step 2: The Chair

Convention operates on a committee and general body model, wherein committees review and create proposals to bring before the general body to help streamline the discussion. Michigan Gamma has a tradition of chairing or vice-chairing committees at convention. In addition, our average member usually has a stronger grasp of Robert's Rules than the average chapter president, so our voting delegate usually is a force in the committee regardless of chair status. I was elected to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Curriculum Review Committee and additionally served as the unofficial procedural adviser of the Chair of the Committee (given aforementioned RR knowledge).

Score at the end of Step 2: MI-G 17 – Opponent 10

Step 3: The Awards

There are 4 generally available awards at Convention:

>   1. Secretary's Commendation (Received)

• This is given to a chapter that has successfully completed all the reports to nationals correctly and on time. Big thanks to our former Secretary Michele Mastria for making this happen.

>   2. MindSET Grant (Received)

• This is given to schools that seek to expand their MindSET program. Big thanks to everyone who's worked so hard to establish our MindSET program as one of the premier programs in the nation (esp. Sarang Supekar, Nathan Rowley, Carlos Pons Siepermann, and Marissa Lafata)

>   3. Membership Award

• The criteria on this one are a little hazy but based on my conversation with Roger Hawks (Assistant Secretary-Treasurer), they appear to be that a chapter has no one refuse election (check) and that they initiate at least 80% of the eligible students (cue laughter). Roger is aware that this would be well over 400 people a term for us. We shouldn't expect this one in the too near future.

>   4. Project Award (Received), Project Performance Scholarship (Received)

• Granted to chapters with outstanding projects (like us). In addition the scholarship is for chapters that have done so for 3 or more straight years (like us).

Score at the end of Step 3: MI-G 47 – Opponent 40

Step 4: The Tellers

"If you want to be powerful you need an army, if you want an army you need to be powerful."-Someone

Fortunately, MI-G brings an army to convention every year. This allows us to have significant presence in the Tellers Committee (vote-counters). Representing us were Chris McMullen and Mike Boyd.

Score at the end of Step 4: MI-G 67 – Opponent 40

Step 5: Confuse the Parliamentarian with Robert's Rules

Of a 5 point proposal, I motioned to divide point 4 from the other 4 points. The parliamentarian insisted that dividing a flow chart was not sensible. I agreed, as I was unsure where he had gotten dividing the flow chart from in the first place. We eventually got the motion understood, though given all the confusion, the motion failed and a reasonably controversial and under-vetted recommendation from the Convention Site Committee was approved. The generic opponent is also given 10 points here for getting the chair to admit to being "a jerk".

Score at the end of Step 5: MI-G 77 – Opponent 50

Step 6: Second Everything

Tau Bates (and probably engineers in general) like a challenge. So when the chair ruled that as long as the voting delegate was one of the voices seconding a motion, anyone from their delegation could assist, all 10 of MI-G's delegates (seated mere feet from the Secretary, Curt) said "Challenge Accepted!".

M.J. Hand III (MI G) is recorded as securing 10 of roughly 56 total seconds.

Score at the end of Step 6: MI-G 97 – Opponent 58

Step 7: Get a Controversial Action Take without Debate

Apparently, Computer Science Curriculum approvals have historically been somewhat controversial. Given this, my subcommittee was prepared to fight tooth and nail to secure the appeal we had been assigned to review. This however proved unnecessary. Following the report given, and the privilege of first debate, no one stood up to oppose it. Perhaps they just wanted me to stop talking after the previous Robert's Rules fiasco, but regardless it was passed without debate.

Score at the end of Step 7: MI-G 107 – Opponent 58

Step 8: Get Transitioned on Running Nations - 5 Years Early

When some chapters decide to host nationals, they put a bid together, hope no one else wants to do it, and then present it. Some work on gathering momentum methodically for years. Michigan Gamma is the second type of chapter. Kentucky Alpha (University of Kentucky) transitioned Iowa Alpha (Iowa State) officers on how to run a successful convention. Ariel Rose and I sat in on the meeting to learn what all goes into it.

Score at the end of Step 8: MI-G 117 – Opponent 58

Oh, also Brandon (KY A Convention Arrangements Chair) may be coming here for grad school. Add 5 points to our score.

Step 9: Win a Big Award

Ok so we didn't do this. Nagel (Most Improved) won't happen because we're pretty good to start. Froula (Most Improved Membership) could happen if we cut our requirements by a huge percent and just skyrocketed the number of initiates. Matthews (Most Outstanding) didn't happen because it may possibly require winning the membership award from Step 3 – honestly, I have no idea what goes into it.

Score at the end of Step 9: MI-G 117 – Opponent 88

Step 10: Does Anyone Have a Napkin?

There is a Convention tradition for during the banquet that involves the following: napkins, sneaking around the banquet hall, a sleep deprived Wes Ripke (D7 Director), a point of personal privilege, and terrified wait staff. Making sure this happens is arguably the most important duty of those in attendance. MI-G was instrumental in seeing this through, thus clinching their victory of the 2012 National Convention.

Final Score: MI-G 130 – Opponent 88

Epilogue

Early Sunday morning, all 10 Michigan Gamma delegates began the long trek back to Ann Arbor. The trip was uneventful save gratuitous amounts of 90s music and some strange giraffes along the highway.

Free/Cheap(er) Engineering Software   Elson Liu, MI Γ grad advisor

In addition to being able to buy cheap copies of Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Office, Mathematica, and MATLAB (and moderately expensive copies of Adobe products) at Computer Showcase, Michigan engineering students have access to other engineering software for free or for cheap. Here is a partial list that I've compiled during my short time at Michigan: (For clickable URLs, see the copy of the Cornerstone that will be posted on MIgamma.org)

Vendor	Program(s)	URL
Microsoft	Windows (free), Visual Studio (free), Visio (free), Project (free)	http://bit.ly/TCG5AC
Autodesk	Autodesk Inventor (free), AutoCAD (free), AutoCAD for Mac (free)	http://students.autodesk.com
Autodesk	Inventor Fusion (beta)	http://labs.autodesk.com/technologies/fusion
Dassault Systemes	Solidworks (free through CAEN)	http://bit.ly/PlSZrp
Dassault Systemes	Solidworks Student Edition ($150) CATIA V5 Student Edition ($100) Abaqus Student Edition (free)	http://academy.3ds.com/software/
Altair	Hyperworks (free)	http://bit.ly/RdoWR2
PTC	Creo Student Edition (free)	http://bit.ly/PMBbp8
Siemens	Solid Edge Student Edition (free)	http://bit.ly/RQ6lYR
Siemens	NX ($135)	http://bit.ly/TCF8Iu

PUZZLE PAGE

EASY:

Using the following key:

I = one vertical matchstick (Roman Numeral 1)

V = two matchsticks touching (Roman Numeral 5)

X = two matchsticks crossing (Roman Numeral 10)

+ = two matchsticks crossing (Plus Sign)

- = one horizontal matchstick (Minus Sign)

= = two horizontal matchsticks (Equals Sign)

Now take the following math equations (using Roman Numerals) and to each equation, add just ONE matchstick to make the equation correct!

$$IX + II = X$$

$$IV— I = V$$

$$IV + VIII = XI$$

$$XII—III = XV$$

$$X + V = XIV$$

$$VI—I = VI$$

$$VIII + VIII = XV$$

HARD:

							8	4	9
8	2		9	5					
	6				7			3	
	3								
		2	6		4	5			
							8		
	4		8				5		
			1	6			7	4	
	5	6	4						

ANOTHER URBAN LEGEND? YOU SHOULD CHECK SNOPES BEFORE SENDING ME THIS STUFF.

OOPS; YEAH.

MAN, SNOPES REALLY IS GREAT— INDEPENDENT FACT-CHECKERS TRAWLING OUR COLLECTIVE DISCOURSE, FILTERING OUT MISINFORMATION.

YEAH, BUT THEY HAVE THEIR DARK SIDE. THE COUPLE THAT RUNS SNOPES.COM ALSO RUNS A NETWORK OF SPAM SERVERS THAT START MANY OF THOSE FORWARDED STORIES IN THE FIRST PLACE, ENSURING THEY'LL ALWAYS HAVE BUSINESS.

THAT'S ABSURD. PLUS, IT'S DEFINITELY NOT TRUE — IT WAS DEBUNKED BY...

YES?

... OH MY GOD.

START

THE 90's?

NO — STOP

YES — STOP

HAMMERTIME

COLLABORATE

LISTEN

Source: XKCD