

Xi Chapter Minutes

September 26, 2006

1. Call to order: 5:31
2. Roppel introduced guest speaker #1: John Calvert, US Patent and Trademark Office
3. Calvin speech
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Current USPTO staffing situation and work overload
 - c. Hiring demand: 6000 engineers over next 5 years
 - d. Described training program
 - e. Pay after 5-6 years: \$90K
 - f. Slides: a few goofy inventions of the past century
 - g. Statistics: 10% of patents issued make it to market, 2-3% actually profit
 - h. Success stories and examples
 - i. Questions?
 - i. Roppel: What should potential inventors do?
 1. Keep record book with numbered, sewn pages
 2. Get it notarized regularly
 3. Keep it secret if possible (examples: Coca-Cola formula, KFC spices)
 4. If not possible, do a patent search
 5. Southwest Missouri State does market analysis for \$275; accessible from <http://www.uiausa.org>
 - ii. Winstel: How much to file a patent?
 1. \$500 to file
 2. \$700 issue fee plus \$3600-3800 in maintenance fees over the next 12 years (life is 20 years from date of file)
4. Chapter business: 6:02
 - a. Special Projects (Rose)
 - i. Cash Card is in
 - ii. Bills for copier haven't made it our way yet
 - b. Fundraising (King was absent, so Rose reported)
 - i. Football is still out getting signed
 - ii. Plan is to have it out a week before homecoming
 - c. By-laws (Winstel)
 - i. New draft posted online
 - ii. Vote postponed until next meeting to allow time to review and quorum to be defined
 - iii. Points provisions emphasized by Rose
 - d. Membership (Garrison)
 - i. Waiting on J. Loden for initiate candidates

- ii. Once candidates identified, the committee will stuff letters and send them off
 - iii. Need to talk to Dr. Irwin to avoid initiation scheduling conflicts
 - iv. Need to avoid Tau Beta Pi initiation
 - v. To do: identify list of members on probationary status (useful for determining quorum)
 - e. Scholastic (Simpson)
 - i. Need tutor for Mechanics (ENGR 2100)
 - ii. Gross has circuits test Friday 10/6/06; review scheduled 10/4 at 7:00 in Greene Room
 - iii. Roppel: Keep track of tutoring for points
 - f. Annual report due mid-October
 - g. Call for more old tests
 - i. Simpson to award points
- 5. Roppel: present Michael Phillips, Jennifer Schwartz, Ramsey Greene from National Instruments (6:12 PM)
- 6. Phillips (AU Computer Engineer)
 - a. NI introduction
 - b. LabVIEW description
 - c. Career overviews
- 7. Schwartz (Mechanical Engineer, Kansas State)
 - a. Introduce Engineering Leadership Program (ELP)
 - b. ~80 Graduates to be hired Spring '07
 - c. More details Wednesday night (9/27/06) at Career Fair
 - d. Desired: Communication skills—written and verbal
 - e. Corporate HQ in Austin, TX
 - f. Lots of promotion from within
- 8. Greene
 - a. Describes his job as field engineer
 - b. General clientele overview
 - c. Much travel, but only away from home 2-4 nights/month
 - d. NI is dominant player in test arena
 - e. Mostly autonomous job
 - f. On *Fortune* 100 best companies to launch a career list
 - g. Flat corporate structure
 - h. LabVIEW experience highly sought after
 - i. New hires mostly have bachelor's degrees
- 9. Adjourn 6:40 PM