

Chapter Development Panel Ideas

These are notes and ideas mentioned by the leaders of several different chapters at the HKN Leadership Conference at the University of Missouri – Rolla on November 3, 2007.

Company participation

- Presentations (biweekly, technical) with provided food
- Get donated equipment
- Get scholarship donations
- Get donated prizes
- Info sessions -- charge a flat fee to advertise for the company and provide them with resumes
- Company Dinner/"Evening with Industry" -- Dinner and an info session, give the companies a resume book
- Try contacting local companies and organize a local job fair

Community service involvement

- Require 30 community service hours
- Do events that active members enjoy and will help with
- Service within the department
- Help with soup kitchens/shelters/disabilities

Raising cash

- Company Banquet
- Pledge dues
- Workday donation
- Breadboard and component sales
- Coffee/Bagel Shop -- sell food
- Full-featured lounge with junk food
- Seek donations
- Petition the department
- Sell past exams with solutions
- Contests -- faculty member with the most collected money must dress up as something
- Have the new initiates come up with ideas and then have them execute the best idea

Doing things cheaply

- Can have a BBQ for all members for under \$70 -- get the officers to chip in
- Get corporate sponsorship -- old alumni can help
- Get deals with local companies (e.g. for food) -- extend their business for a discount
- Buy off-brand
- Professor workdays for donations
- Always ask companies to see what they will give
- Get a membership to a store/buy in bulk

Competition with other societies and Greeks

- Seek out companies that are seeking specific skills
- Collaborate on events with other societies
- Ask for donations at more places (e.g. if other societies have taken all available donations)
- Sell HKN to companies, provide resume CDs

Events for non-HKN members

- All events open to everyone -- everyone pays the same fee for the activities, such as minigolf every week
- Advertise within the department
- Activity ideas: video game tournaments, swing dancing lessons, seminar series, freshmen welcome day, inter-society events
- Work with IEEE to share speakers and fundraisers

Retention rates

- Stress attendance at social events
- Bring in corporate speakers
- Reach out to freshmen, make new members feel like part of the group
- Make participation fun!
- Have the department head send letters to the parents
- Sell the ability to get a good job
- Continued encouragement to join, personalized involvement
- Don't be condescending -- make it an honor for the society to have the student join
- Get people to become officers/committee chairs immediately after induction
- Create active member committees as necessary/as needed
- Have good social events
- Use a points system
- Be open to new ideas

HKN vs. IEEE

- Share an office; work out scheduling and speakers
- Let IEEE bring industrial speakers, let HKN do the fun stuff
- Merge fundraising, invite their members to activities
- Challenge IEEE to paintball or football

Contact with alumni

- Industry contacts -- encourage alumni in industry to come back and give presentations
- Get alumni to donate, hold an alumni dinner
- Keep track of the alumni somehow, through a contact info database, and remind them to keep their info current
- Work with HKN headquarters and the department to keep track of alumni

Organization infrastructure

- Use committee chairs to keep everyone involved
- Form committees as they are needed
- Have a think tank for new ideas or long-term events
- Let a member become the head of some activity to encourage involvement

Graduate students

- Recruit by word-of-mouth, get one person to spread the word
- Find and encourage HKN members from other chapters at their previous university to attend meetings
- Spam them, put up fliers