

## **Penn State Nuclear Engineering Society Board Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2003**

Submitted by: Melissa A. Hunter, Secretary/Treasurer

The first Penn State Nuclear Engineering Society (PSNES) Board Meeting was held at 126 Reber Building, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park on July 18, 2003.

### Attendees:

Jeff Jeffries, President

Melissa Hunter, Secretary/Treasurer

Jack Brenizer, Chair of Nuclear Engineering Program

Ed Klevans, Past President

Eileen Supko, Board Member

Pat Loftus, Board Member

Frank Buschman, Board Member

Vaughn Whisker, III, Board Member

Kim Ripka, Departmental Strategic Planning Specialist, Mechanical and Nuclear  
Engineering Department

Dick Benson, Head of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Department

Marc McMullin, Development Officer, College of Engineering

Cindy Jones, Coordinator, Alumni Relations, College of Engineering

The meeting was called to order by PSNES President Jeff Jeffries at 10:00 a.m. Jeff thanked everyone in attendance for coming.

Jack Brenizer provided some opening remarks for the Board meeting and summarized the accomplishments of PSNES to-date: the Constitution was approved and PSNES is now an official organization. Jack wants PSNES to re-unite Penn State nuclear engineering alumni with the Nuclear Engineering (NE) Program so that Penn State is the "go-to" school for nuclear engineering for undergraduates, graduate students, and research. Jack also provided a summary of the state of the NE Program. Among other items, the Program has a strong image at the Department of Energy (DOE), and has been used as a positive example to other NE departments. Two new faculty members, Yousry Azmy and Kenan Unlu, have recently joined the Program, and 10 out of 11 faculty members used the reactor last year, demonstrating that the Program is improving in nuclear science areas along with its already strong power engineering areas. PSNES can help the NE Program by:

- Advancing the image and perception of the Program
- Recruiting graduate students
- Identifying funding resources for graduate student research
- Advising students on resumes
- Identifying internships for undergraduate students (and graduate students)

- Supporting Penn State gatherings at Winter American Nuclear Society (ANS) Meetings

Dick Benson, Head, Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, described some positive changes that are occurring, including PSNES and the emphasis on alumni programs. Dick credited Kim Ripka with her work in this area and introduced Marc McMullin, who was recently assigned a financial developmental role in the Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering (MNE) and Industrial and Manufacturing (IME) Departments. Marc will travel extensively and focus on “major gift” fundraising. He seeks the support of alumni to aid him in his efforts, primarily by providing introductions and orienting him to the local areas.

The merger of the NE Program into the MNE Department has been highlighted as an unqualified success and is getting some public recognition. Credit goes to Dean Wormley as well as the ME and NE leadership.

Members of PSNES are also members of the Penn State Engineering Society (PSES); PSNES needs to become familiar and actively involved with the PSES programs. One upcoming event mentioned is the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Penn State Engineering Society Golf Classic, which will be on Saturday, September 13, 2003 at Toftrees Resort and Golf Club in State College.

The official election results along with a summary of the “electronic voting” experience was presented by Kim Ripka. 87 out of an available 200 alumni voted in the election. The newly-elected PSNES Board of Directors consists of 3 officers and 6 at-large Board members:

Dr. Jeffrey D. E. Jeffries, President  
Mr. Leonard Pasquini, Vice President  
Dr. Melissa A. Hunter, Secretary/Treasurer  
Mr. Frank Buschman, Board Member  
Mr. Charlie Hess, Board Member  
Ms. Patricia Beecher Loftus, Board Member  
Ms. Undine Shoop, Board Member  
Ms. Eileen M. Supko, Board Member  
Mr. Vaughn Whisker, III, Board Member

There were a few glitches early on in the electronic voting, but overall it went smoothly.

Jeff Jeffries summarized the PSES Board meeting held on May 30, 2003, and noted that the PSNES has wide latitude in the ways it can assist the NE Program.

The next item of business addressed PSNES Constitutional issues. The Board discussed each issue in detail and minor changes were made to the Constitution.

The major thrust of the meeting was to address the structure and scope of the PSNES, and the following items were highlighted:

- Increasing the PSNES membership
- Reviewing the NE Program's websites and providing feedback
- Assisting with job postings for NE students
- Assisting students in improving their resumes and cover letters
- Judging design projects in NE430 and NE431W
- Speaking either at a Penn State ANS meeting or at a NE590 seminar
- Assisting in finding ways to promote the Penn State NE image in the media
- Supporting a "reunion" at the University Park Campus
- Supporting the Penn State social functions at ANS meetings (both financially and promotionally)

Specific assignments were made in each of the areas considered to be short-term activities that will provide momentum for the organization.

The Board agreed that the next Board communication would be held via telecon tentatively at 1 p.m. EST on October 21, 2003. At that time, the determination will be made regarding the schedule for the next actual Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 04:27 p.m.