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Minutes of August 15, 2005
Penn State Nuclear Engineering Society Board Meeting

Submitted by: Frank Buschman, Secretary/Treasurer

The third Penn State Nuclear Engineering Society (PSNES) Board Meeting was held at 125 Reber Building, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, on August 15, 2005.

Attendees:

Jeff Jeffries, President

Len Pasquini, Vice President

Jack Brenizer, Chair of Nuclear Engineering Program

Pat Loftus, Board Member

Undine Shoop, Board Member

Eileen Supko, Board Member

Frank Buschman, Board Member

Doug Wood

Jennifer Butler, Board Member

Jeff Palmer

Ken Hunt, Board Member

Prasad Kadambi, Board Member

Larry Hochreiter, Nuclear Engineering Faculty Member

Richard Martin

James Adams

Joe Sommer, Interim Head of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Department

Liz Larsen, Major Gifts coordinator for Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Department

Kim Ripka, Departmental Strategic Planning Specialist, MNE Department

The meeting was called to order by PSNES President Jeff Jeffries at 9:02 a.m. Jeff thanked everyone in attendance for coming. PSNES has accomplished some success during the past year and also failed to follow through on some goals established by the Board. Each person in attendance introduced themselves to the others in the room.

Minutes of the previous board meeting were unanimously accepted into record by the board with no discussion. Motion was by Pat Loftus and second by Eileen Supko.

Joe Sommer provided a summary of the Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering. Former Department Head, Dick Benson, left to become the Dean of Engineering at Virginia Tech. Dr. Sommer has a one year appointment as Interim Head of the Department. He has two goals for this year: to increase the visibility of the programs and to establish more endowments. The search committee for the next department head is being established by the Dean with hopes of announcing the new Department Head in April of 2006. The new major gifts coordinator for the department, Liz Larsen, was introduced.

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Liz Larsen gave a brief personal and professional background. Liz is a 1976 graduate of Penn State and most recently was a gifts coordinator at Arizona State University.

Jack Brenizer presented an update of the Penn State Nuclear Engineering Program. The program has current enrollments of 93 undergraduate and 47 full-time graduate students. The enrollments in Nuclear Engineering are rising nationwide. About 23 institutions grant NE or NE-related degrees (about 15 true NE) with several new programs being established (USC and UNLV). Purdue announced intentions to build a new research reactor. The concurrent major program produces very sought after students in the Nuclear Industry. Approximately 26% of NE majors are seeking concurrent degrees.

The NE graduate program averages 12 graduate degrees per year. About 8 M.S. degrees and between 3 and 4 Ph.D. are granted each year. Currently, NE faculty conduct both nuclear power and nuclear science research with a good mix of industry and government funding. Penn State NE has an excellent reputation for delivering results in a timely manner.

Penn State is the lead institution for the Big 10 INIE consortium. The consortium is made up of all of the schools in the Big-10 with nuclear engineering programs: Penn State, Purdue, Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio State, and Michigan. The goal of this consortium is “to establish a leading organization for reactor-based research, outreach and next generation University Research and Training Reactors (URTR) design in the US”. These six Big-10 universities graduate >30% of the total nuclear engineers in the US at all levels. INIE funding at PSU had gone to support facility upgrades and new equipment purchases as well as funding of eight graduate research assistantships each year.

The goals of the Penn State Nuclear Engineering Program are: to turn out the best nuclear engineering graduates in the country, have the top ranked B.S. NE program in the U.S., have the top ranked Graduate NE programs in the U.S., be the first place recruiters visit, be the first place people turn to for research, and to involve the alumni. In order to achieve these goals, there are plans to have two undergraduate paths towards graduation. A Power Engineering option and a Nuclear Science option are currently planned. The students will continue to have a strong core knowledge in traditional nuclear engineering and have an emphasis in either nuclear science or power engineering. This would prepare the students for careers in industry or graduate studies in power engineering or radiochemistry, nuclear medicine, or radiology. To improve the perception of the graduate program, it must be expanded; by moving from small to large research programs with continued funding and hiring post-doc students to work on projects with graduate students.

Dr. Brenizer concluded that this is a good time to enhance Penn State’s Nuclear Engineering program and Penn State Nuclear Engineering is well positioned to play a major role in national research.

Jeff Jeffries then discussed the state of PSNES. The society is much as it was last meeting. Our mission continues to be strengthening the relationship between the PSU

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Nuclear Engineering program and its alumni. The lack of a treasury is part to blame in the lack of PSNES activities. Two things that Jeff participated in were an ANS student meeting panel session along with Steve Routh of Bechtel and Scott Briggs of Bettis, and the PSU reception at the ANS Winter meeting in Washington D.C.. Between 150 and 200 people attended the highly successful mixer. PSNES helped with the mixer by donating money (as individual contributions) and by providing free labor during the event set-up.

Jeff Jeffries then introduced a resolution to recognize the Penn State Breazeale Nuclear Reactor for its outstanding contributions to the advancement of nuclear research and engineering and the education of engineering students and the public. The resolution passed unanimously following a motion by Len Pasquini and second by Pat Loftus. The full text of the resolution can be found at the end of these minutes.

Several changes to the PSNES constitution were proposed by Jeff Jeffries. The first item was the addition of the Director of the Radiation Science and Engineering Center to the Board as an ex-officio member with vote. This was discussed and decided upon at the previous Board meeting but the constitution was never updated. Second, the number of at-large board members dictated in the constitution is to be changed from six to between six and nine persons. This change is proposed after examining the outcome of the most recent election. There were many nominees that received close to the same number of votes and all were willing to serve. The third amendment was changing the Vice President to a Vice President/President Elect. All three items were passed unanimously.

In open discussion it was brought to the attention of the board that communication with the alumni has been an issue. The contact information and alumni lists are maintained by the alumni association. These can be outdated or incorrect. After much discussion of ways to improve the current alumni directory, it was decided that a script should be written so that PSNES members can check their information in the directory or add their contact information to the PSNES list through the PSNES website.

The discussion then moved to ways to attract new members. Jeff Palmer asked if it was possible to obtain a football ticket provision. Many other alumni interest groups use this as their main selling point. Some sort of reunion activities were discussed, including participation in the PSES golf tournament, which is held in conjunction with the annual PSES meeting, and planning activities and the next spring/summer board meeting to coincide with the Blue/White game in April. It was decided that PSNES should start out by participating two events per year. These will be the PSU reception at the ANS winter meeting and the spring meeting in conjunction with the Blue/White game. The ANS winter meeting is in mid-November. The PSU reception will be the Monday night of the ANS Meeting, this will be November 14. A PSNES board meeting will be held from 4-6pm before the mixer, which begins at six. The schedule for the spring meeting and other activities will be planned at the November meeting. Len Pasquini and Frank Buschman will work with PSU NE to plan the November meeting and Jen Butler and Undine Shoop will work to plan the spring meeting.

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Pat Loftus discussed the results of the elections. The nominating committee met in November to determine candidates for nomination. The names of those who agreed were posted on the PSNES website and notification went out to PSNES members. There was time for self-nomination followed by a one month period for voting. The validation of the results showed interesting results with several close loses in elections for board members at-large as well as ties in votes. Jeff Jeffries thanked Pat for chairing the nomination committee with Ed Klevans had to resign the position and he congratulated all of the new board members. Len Pasquini was presented a gavel by Jeff as a symbol of his presidency and the new officers and board members were put in place. The new officers and board members are:

Len Pasquini	-	President
Melissa Hunter	-	Vice President
Frank Buschman	-	Secretary/Treasurer
Jack Brenizer	-	Chair of Nuclear Engineering Program
Larry Hochreiter	-	Nuclear Engineering Faculty Member
Fred Sears	-	Ex-Officio Board Member
Jeff Jeffries	-	Immediate Past President

At-large Board Members:

Kerry Basehore
Jen Butler
Ken Hunt
Prasad Kadambi
Pat Loftus
Eileen Supko

As Len's first action as president of the PSNES he presented a plaque and gavel to Jeff Jeffries thanking him for his service as the first president of the PSNES. A presentation was also made for Ed Klevans thanking him for his work towards the establishment of the PSNES and his service to the PSU NE program.

Recap of Action Items:

Kim Ripka	-	Mailing to all alumni to update contact information
Frank Buschman		
And Len Pasquini	-	Planning of November meeting
Jen Butler and Undine Shoop	-	Planning of spring meeting
Len Pasquini and Pat Loftus	-	Contact members who were close in election to fill Vacancies in board
Kim Ripka	-	Inquiry about football ticket allocation
Jack Brenizer	-	Continue to look into topics for PSU NE Newsletter
Larry Hochreiter	-	Distribute a list of openings for Seminar Series

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.

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Resolution

**The Penn State Nuclear Engineering Society
Hereby Recognizes**

The Penn State Breazeale Nuclear Reactor

**For its outstanding contributions to the advancement of nuclear
research and the education of engineering students**

Whereas,

**The Penn State Breazeale Nuclear Reactor has been operating for a
period of fifty years, and**

Whereas,

**The Penn State Breazeale Nuclear Reactor has been a significant
resource for the education and training of many undergraduate and
graduate engineering students, and**

Whereas,

**The Penn State Breazeale Nuclear Reactor continues to exemplify the
finest traditions of research and education in nuclear science and
engineering;**

Therefore Be It Resolved,

**That the Penn State Nuclear Engineering Society honors the Penn State
Breazeale Nuclear Reactor for its continued leadership role in nuclear
engineering education and pledges continued support of its mission**

Adopted By This Society August 15, 2005

**Jeffrey D.E. Jeffries, PhD, PE
President**