

PSNES ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2008

PSU 125 Reber Building

8:00 Welcome and Member Roll Call – Pat Loftus
(Quorum achieved per PSNES Constitution)

Attendees:

Pat Loftus – President
Dick Gill – Acting VP
Rick Etling – Secretary/Treasurer
Jack Brenizer – Program Chair
Fred Sears – RSEC Director
Larry Hochreiter – Faculty
Mike Meholic - Student ANS VP

Directors:
Steve Routh
Jennifer Butler
Jeff Jeffries
Ed Klevans
Doug Wood
Mark Lloyd
Bill Naughton

Members:

Ron Brown
Randy Tropasso
Eileen Supko

PSMES:

Jerry Robertson - President

8:05 Old Business

- February 6, 2008 Meeting Minutes - Approved (see PSNES Website)
- PSNES Recognition Report – The previously approved recognition award for four decades of outstanding service was presented to Terry Flinchbaugh at the Society dinner on April 18th.
- MNE Senior Recognition Banquet Report– The 1st annual banquet was successfully held on February 18th with very good attendance by Students, Faculty and Alumni, and sponsor Companies. Feedback was obtained from the participants and companies attending and will be factored into the planning for future events of this type. Initial discussions are centered around holding a MNE Reception to coincide with the PSU Fall 2008 Career Days events followed by a MNE Senior Recognition Banquet in the Winter/Spring of 2009.
Action: PSNES Members interested in participating on the planning committee for these events should contact Pat Loftus. (see PSNES website for contact information)
- PSNES Undergraduate Student Awards Committee Report – The previously approved recognition awards for Service and Leadership and Excellence have received alumni funding for 2008 and will move forward with implementation culminating in the announcement of the winners in the Fall of 2008. The nomination process for the Service and Leadership Awards is being finalized.
Action: Ed Klevans/Jim Tusar to provide the PSNES proposed nomination form to Jack Brenizer/Traci Shimmel.

- Financial Report: PSNES Undergraduate Student Awards & RSEC Gift Funds – The PSNES Student Awards fund has sufficient funds (>\$2100) for the 2008-2009 academic year, thanks to individual alumni contributions. In addition, a few alumni have made multi-year pledges to begin to build the financial resources to enable the awards to be continued. To ensure that the funds received by PSU are properly allocated to this fund, the Program indicated that those contributing via the PSU or MNE Websites clearly identify the gift as “Student Awards for Nuclear Engineering”. Fred Sears also discussed the means to designate a gift to RSEC.
- Benchmark Activities Report – A 2008-2009 PSNES benchmarking initiative was proposed during the February 6, 2008 meeting. Discussions continued with a proposal for PSNES members to contact other Penn State Engineering Societies and other Major Nuclear Engineering Programs to benchmark value added practices of Engineering Alumni Societies. There was general agreement that some benchmarking will be pursued.
Action: Mark Lloyd and Rick Etling will develop the benchmark program plan and discuss next steps with Jack Brenizer.
- On-Campus Student Seminars/Speaking Opportunities – PSNES is considering the potential value of industry support to the Program in the area of providing case studies addressing good engineering practices, including quality and ethics. Jeff Jeffries volunteered to collect industry input (case studies) for compilation and transmittal to the Program. Jack Brenizer discussed the activities within the University on this topic while describing the unique challenges of getting the essential points across to the global student population. In addition, it was also recommended that Industry Speakers consider contacting the Student ANS Chapter to arrange for a more informal networking opportunity with the students during the on-campus visit.
Action: PSNES Members to provide case study or best practices training tools and information to Jeff Jeffries who will compile them and provide them to the Program. (see PSNES website for contact information)

9:00 New Business

- Department, Program, RSEC & Student Updates
 - The past year has been very good for the Program – new student award programs, a new distinguished professor position, students have won numerous awards, tied Texas A&M with the most undergraduate degrees, ~70 incoming students for the Junior year.
 - The Program is active in establishing programs with the new Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment.
 - Dr. Mahaffy has announced his intention to retire in December 2008. Dr Azmy has accepted a promotion to Nuclear Engineering Department Head at NC State and will leave PSU in late June 2008.
Action: PSNES members are requested to identify potential candidates for faculty positions (including adjunct) to Jack Brenizer. Particular areas of interest are fuel cycles and radiation sciences/transport (see MNE website for contact information)
 - Challenges continue as the College of Engineering has retrenched by 15 positions as part of the reallocation of University Programs, while student enrollment in MNE continues to increase.
 - Very good Industry participation continues in the NE 590 Industry Speaker Series including Organization leads from the NRC, NEI and various Industry Groups.
Action: PSNES Members interested in on-campus speaking opportunities should contact Larry Hochreiter or the PSU Student ANS (see MNE website for contact information)
 - Distance education programs continue to grow with the Program being a benchmark for the University.

- DOE appears to have reconsidered and will move to re-establish prior support for University Nuclear Engineering Programs.
- Penn State Students captured 2 of 4 Admiral Rickover awards. 18 members of the Student ANS Chapter attended the National Student ANS Conference at Texas A&M.
- Student ANS – Mike Meholic reported excellent feedback from the National ANS Conference. The Student Society has welcomed many Industry speakers. The Boy Scout merit badge program has grown significantly and a waiting list is now in place. PSNES continues to be requested for opportunities for ANS Chapter visits to Industry facilities. “Industry participation with PSU Student ANS is unrivaled”.

Action: PSNES Members are invited to contact the PSU ANS Student Chapter via their website.

- RSEC – Received very positive feedback from the NRC on the handling of the Reactor pool divider wall water leak. Since then, the reactor has been operating multiple shifts and multi-tasking to address backlog during the reactor repair project. Funding is an ongoing challenge but sufficient to meet the expanding Program needs; with fuel funding sufficient for the next 10 years. Funding for the neutron beam proposed facility has not yet been secured from DOE. Security issues are increasing similar to industry pressures. Industry service work is increasing. Staffing will be a significant challenge with the aging of the staff and the increased backlog. Fred Sears will be retiring as Director this summer and his long service to the University and to PSNES is recognized and greatly appreciated. NRC review of the RSEC license renewal application has begun with only limited questions so far.

- PSMES/PSES Report – Jerry Robertson reported PSMES is coming up to speed with over 800 registered alumni. An organizing board is being established to move their Society to more formal operations in the next year. Initial areas of focus are Student Mentoring (August 23rd student enrollment) and Alumni networking in addition to collaborating with PSNES and MNE on potential joint activities.

Action: PSNES Members interested in becoming members of PSMES are invited to do so be visiting the PSMES website.

- Alumni Update on Nuclear Excellence Fund – Eileen Supko reported on efforts of independent Alumni to establish an endowed fund in support of priorities of the Program (this program is separate from PSNES and Program activities). The goal is to have the fund at an endowed level in time to support the 50th Anniversary of the Nuclear Engineering Program in 2009.

- 2008 -2009 PSNES Priorities and Focus Items:

- 2008 PSNES Undergraduate Student Awards Implementation
- PSNES Officer/Board Elections (early 2009) – Nominating Committee to be established during the Fall 2008
- 2008-2009 MNE Recognition (Reception & Banquet) support
- Nuclear Engineering Program 50th Anniversary Celebration support – Planning to begin in Fall 2008
- Regional Networking Events with MNE Participation – On-going focus
- On-Campus Seminars & Speaking Opportunities – On-going focus

10:40 Upcoming Events and Meetings:

- September 2008 - 3rd Quarter PSNES Meeting (via telecon)
- September 2008 MNE Reception @ PSU (September 15th, 5:00 – 8:00 PM)
- November 2008 – Nuclear Engineering Reception @ ANS Winter Meeting in Reno, NV
- December 2008 – 4th Quarter PSNES Meeting (via telecon)

10:45 Adjourn