

APPROVED MINUTES OF PSNES DECEMBER 9, 2008 MEETING

PSNES 4th QUARTER MEETING MINUTES
December 9, 2008 - Telecon

11:35 Welcome and Member Roll Call – Pat Loftus confirmed a quorum to conduct business.

Participants:

Pat Loftus – President
Rick Etling – Secretary/Treasurer
Jack Brenizer – Program Chair
Kenan Unlu – RSEC Director
Len Pasquini – PSNES Past President

Directors:

Ed Klevans
Doug Wood
Mark Lloyd
Bill Naughton
Richard Martin
Jim Tusar
Steve Routh
Dick Gill – voting via e-mail proxy
Jeff Jeffries – voting via e-mail proxy

Others:

Jennifer Theiss – College of Engineering Alumni Relations
Susan McNulty-Atwater – PSES President
Traci Shimmel – Assistant to Program Chair
Ron Brown
Jim Stavely
Joe Sholtis

Old Business

- **Meeting Minutes Approval**- The October 6th Telecon Meeting Minutes were approved as written. (See Attachment 1)
- **PSNES Financial Report** – Current funds are ~\$4600 for the 2008-2009 academic year - \$2700 General Account & \$1900 in Undergraduate Awards.
- **PSNES Board Change** (NucE Faculty Member) – **Action: Jack Brenizer to identify Faculty representative to replace Dr. Larry Hochreiter.**
- **Benchmark Activities Report** – The Benchmark questions and process have been identified and comments provided by the Society Board have been dispositioned. **Action: Following receipt of the distribution list from Jack Brenizer, PSNES will implement the Benchmark initiative through contact (written & e-mail) by PSNES President Pat Loftus as prepared by Rick Etling/Mark Lloyd.** The Society Board will be copied on the e-mail communications.
- **PSNES Undergraduate Student Awards Program** – Consideration of Honorable Mention was discussed. The Board voted against adoption of a program modification to incorporate honorable mention. **Action: Awards Committee representatives will compile lessons learned. (Ed Klevans, Richard Martin, Jim Tusar, Ron Brown).**

- **Potential New Initiative: Nuclear Engineering Student Mentoring Program** – Pat Loftus briefly reviewed the PSMES initiative. **Action: PSNES Board Members to review the Mechanical Engineering Mentoring Handbook on the PSMES section of the MNE Website and be prepared to discuss at the First Quarter 2009 Meeting. Student feedback via the ANS Student President (Mike Meholic) is an important input.**
 - Website: <http://www.me.psu.edu/Alumni/PSMES/Mentor.html>
- **Program Support** – Pat Loftus presented a report from Jeff Jeffries that no additional case studies of engineering best practices training tools and information have been received from Society members beyond those provided by J. Tusar. This action is considered closed.

New Business

- **2009 PSNES Elections** – The Board approved the roster of candidates brought forward by the Nominating Committee in accordance with the Society Constitution. PSNES Member notification of the upcoming election will commence the process. Upon notification, Society members may self-nominate within a period of 30 days. A full roster will be placed on the PSNES Website and member notifications will signal the 30 day voting period.

The Board approved the following roster of candidates for the PSNES 2009 Elections.

- VP/President Elect (2009-2013): Rick Etling (current PSNES Secretary/Treasurer)
- Secretary/Treasurer (2009-2011): Bill Naughton (current PSNES Director)
- 5 At-Large Director Positions (2009-2013):
 - Ron Brown, BS NucE 1975
 - Jen Butler (current PSNES Director)
 - Dick Gill (current PSNES VP, elected as Director)
 - Ed Klevans (current PSNES Director)
 - Joe Sholtis Jr., BS NucE 1970
 - James Stavely Jr, BS NucE 1979, MS 1980
 - James Stover, BS NucE 2006
 - Doug Wood (current PSNES Director)
 - Mike Meholic (currently PSU ANS Student President), BSME/NucE 2006, MS NucE 2008
- **Department, Program, RSEC, ANS Student Chapter, PSMES and PSES News**
 - Program enrollment is at an all time high, surpassing the peak program graduation rates in the late 1970s. The Masters of Nuclear Engineering distance program has 70 enrolled and 136 taking classes.
 - There are 18 open Nuclear Engineering faculty positions in the US which challenges the Program's ability to replace 3 existing or anticipated openings.
 - The MNE Department's senior recognition event is scheduled for February 16th – all PSNES members are encouraged to participate or to consider sponsoring a student. The event is in conjunction with the Spring Career Fair recruiting dates.
 - RSEC continues on-going improvements based on DOE and internal identified needs. The license renewal process continues to plan with no expected issues.
 - Society Members are invited to participate in Penn State Engineering Society (PSES) events and to become involved in PSES. (See Attachment 2 for December 3rd Meeting minutes and also PSES Website)
 - Society members provided insights on "life as a nuclear engineer" to support a high school student assignment to "interview a nuclear engineer". **Action: Society to consider an initiative to develop a "nuclear engineering fact sheet" which the Program/Members may use to response to requests from the public. (Agenda topic for 1st Quarter Meeting)**

- **Recognition Initiatives** – Family, Industry and Individual support has been obtained to establish a distinguished lecture series that will be endowed in memory of Dr Larry Hochreiter.
- **Nuclear Engineering 50th Anniversary Plans and Support** – Plans are in development including capturing other program best practices. **Action: Jack Brenizer to identify areas of participation and support from PSNES. Doug Wood to share best practices for the University of Michigan.**
- **2009 PSNES Meetings Schedule** – In recognition of multiple opportunities for Society Members to participate in on-campus activities, **Pat Loftus will poll Board members regarding availability for the 2009 Annual Meeting (February 16th, April 25th) and alternative dates for other quarterly meetings via telecon. In addition, a potential event/meeting in conjunction with NucE Program 50th Anniversary Celebration was briefly discussed but was deferred pending the availability of Program plans. (Agenda for 1st Quarter Meeting)**
- **2008-2009 PSNES Priorities and Focus Items:**
 - 2009 PSNES Undergraduate Student Awards Implementation
 - PSNES Officer/Board Elections (early 2009) – Nominating Committee established
 - 2008-2009 MNE Recognition (Reception & Banquet) support
 - Nuclear Engineering Program 50th Anniversary Celebration support – Planning has begun
 - Regional Networking Events with MNE Participation
 - Recognition Initiatives
 - On-Campus Student Seminars/Speaking Opportunities – **members are requested to nominate industry representatives**
- 2009 Upcoming Events & Meetings
 - The PSNES Annual Meeting could be schedule for either February 16th (MNE Senior Recognition event) or April 25th (Blue-White weekend)
 - 4th Quarter PSNES Meeting and NucE/PSNES Reception tentatively set for November 16th at the ANS Winter Meeting location (Omni-Shoreham Hotel in Washington DC)
 - College of Engineering Alumni Reception (recruiters who are PSU Engineering Alumni) on February 4th
 - PSES Meeting on February 27th (around Rube Goldberg Machine Contest & solar house tour)
 - PSES Meeting on June 5th (Alumni Reunion Weekend reception and Department tours). (See Attachment 2 for College of Engineering and PSES activities)
- Members Roundtable:
 - Exelon, Bechtel, Westinghouse and AREVA, and smaller companies, have been actively participating in recruiting activities.
 - Ed Klevans, Chief Coordinator of the 2008 World Nuclear University Summer Institute program updated the members on the 2009 Program at Oxford, England.
 - Currently 225 PSNES members help to support the program. Based on best practices from the University of New Mexico Engineering Alumni Association, Joe Sholtis proposed an initiative to promote more active involvement in PSNES by both recent graduates and the more than 1400 alumni of the Program. **(Agenda topic for 1st Quarter meeting).**

12:50 Adjourn

ATTACHMENT 1 – FINAL PSNES OCTOBER 6, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

PSNES MEETING MINUTES October 6, 2008 - Telecon

11:30 Welcome and Member Roll Call – Pat Loftus confirmed a quorum to conduct business.

Attendees:

Pat Loftus – President
Dick Gill – Acting VP
Rick Etling – Secretary/Treasurer
Jack Brenizer – Program Chair
Kenan Ünlü – RSEC Director
Karen Thole – MNE Department Head
Mike Meholic - Student ANS President
Traci Shimmel – Department Assistant

Directors:

Jeff Jeffries
Ed Klevans
Doug Wood
Mark Lloyd
Bill Naughton
Richard Martin
Jim Tusar

Moment of Silence in Memory of Larry Hochreiter

Old Business

- **Meeting Minutes Approval** - The April 19, 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as written. (See the PSNES Website)
- **Financial Report** – Current fund balance is ~ \$2100 which was sufficient to fund the two (2) 2008 PSNES Undergraduate Student Awards. Thanks go to individual alumni contributors. The Program reported that problems continue with getting funds designated for PSNES activities properly identified and allocated. The Program will provide additional guidance on how to designate contributions to ensure they are properly allocated to PSNES activities including the Undergraduate Student Awards. In the interim, the Program suggested that those who would like to contribute are encouraged to send contributions directly to the Program with a note clearly designating PSNES (general or Undergraduate Student Awards).
- **PSNES Undergraduate Student Awards Report** – The 2008 PSNES Undergraduate Student Awardees have been identified. Stephanie Zwolinski (concurrent ME/NucE major) has been selected for the Leadership and Service Award. Jennifer Jarvis is the winner of the Academic Excellence Award. Ed Klevans provided recommendations to help clarify the selection process. Students will be notified this month via communications from both the Program and PSNES. Recognition of the PSNES Awards Nomination Committee (Jack Brenizer, Ed Klevans, Richard Martin, Jim Tusar and Ron Brown) for a job well done! **Action: PSNES Awards Nomination Committee to review process and criteria and propose revisions for Board review and approval.**
- **Benchmark Activities Report** – The Benchmark questions and process have been identified and approved for PSNES to initiate the requests of other programs. **Action: Mark Lloyd/Rick Etling to send the questions to the Board for information and comments.**

- **Program Support** – Receipt of Exelon ethics training information from Jim Tusar was acknowledged. Jeff indicated that we are still in need of recommendations from members on best practices for ethics training for Program students. The University does have a program that might be enhanced from industry experience and practice. **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.**

New Business

- **PSNES Board Changes** – Dr Kenan Ünlü is the new RSEC Director and representative to the Board, following the retirement of Fred Sears. Near term focus at RSEC are short term facility upgrades and enhancements which are well in hand. The long term goal is overall expansion to enhance the neutron beam capability. Recent NRC inspection and license extension discussions were successful. Mike Meholic is the new ANS Student Chapter President and representative to the Board. New PSES President Susan McNulty-Atwood is also a member of the Board. **Action: Pat Loftus to work with Board Members to update contact information and identify PSNES Website changes. Jack Brenizer to identify Faculty representative to replace Larry Hochreiter.**
- **2009 PSNES Elections** – Per the PSNES Constitution, a Nominating Committee is being formed to facilitate identification of potential candidates and recommend a roster of candidates for Board consideration in the December PSNES Meeting. Bill Naughton (via e-mail), Rick Etling, Richard Martin along with Pat Loftus will be among those on the Nominating Committee. Action: Pat Loftus/Nominating Committee.
 - VP/President Elect (4 year obligation): 2009-2013
 - Secretary/Treasurer: Term 2009-2011
 - 5 At-Large Director Positions: Term 2009-2013

Comment [SAG1]:

- **Program/Department Update**
 - NucE 50th Anniversary** - Planning is proceeding – Fall 2009 is the targeted time for celebrations including the 2009 ANS Winter Reception. **Action – PSNES Members to provide the Program with historical information of interest.**
 - 45 undergraduate degrees were awarded in May 2008 with enrollment at an all time high - 12 PhD degrees were also awarded.
 - Graduate distance learning program continues to grow.
 - Research programs continue strong and leading in the College of Engineering.
 - 4 Faculty positions are or will be open and replacements being pursued.
 - MNE Student Networking Workshop was held September 15th with brief industry and University Career Services presentations. Suggestions for future sessions have been provided to the MNE Department. Board member Jim Tusar was recognized for his efforts.
- **Recognition Initiatives** – PSNES is working with the Program on possible recognition options to remember Dr Larry Hochreiter. Endowment of a Lecture Series is the approach preferred by the Program. The Program indicated that discussions are on-going with the Hochreiter Family and other industry stakeholders. A memorial event is being planned to be announced by the Program. PSNES recognition discussions will continue at the December Meeting.

- **2008 -2009 PSNES Priorities and Focus Items:**

- 2008 PSNES Undergraduate Student Awards Implementation - Complete
- PSNES Officer/Board Elections (early 2009) – Nominating Committee established
- 2008-2009 MNE Recognition (Reception & Banquet) support
- Nuclear Engineering Program 50th Anniversary Celebration support – Planning has begun
- Regional Networking Events with MNE Participation – On-going
- On-Campus Student Seminars/Speaking Opportunities – **PSNES Members are requested to nominate industry representatives.**
- Nuclear Engineering Student Mentoring Program – Karen Thole summarized the PSMES Mentoring initiative. With the substantial increase in NucE student enrollment and Program “growing pains”, it was suggested that PSNES discuss this further at the December Meeting. Student and PSMES perspectives will be obtained. **Action: Pat Loftus to coordinate with Jerry Robertson (PSMES President) and Mike Meholic (Student ANS).**

- **Student ANS News** – Mike Meholic provided updates on ANS Student Chapter activities. There is a good agenda of industry speakers and student/faculty interactions scheduled.

Member/PSU News and Events Roundtable – All

1. MNE has a new communications/publicity resource (Victoria Currier) who will also assist with the website. With Victoria’s support, we can expect to see increased “coverage” of MNE events. A “new” web site will be launched soon.
2. Dick Gill again expressed the desire to get younger members involved in Board and Society activities.
3. A new PSES President (Susan McNulty-Atwood) has been elected and is a member of the PSNES Board (by Constitution).
4. The Annual Nuclear Engineering/PSNES Reception will be November 10th at the Winter ANS Meeting at the conference hotel in Reno, Nevada. The Reception will be in Nevada Rooms 2 and 3. All PSNES Members and Friends of the Nuclear Engineering Program are invited to attend.
5. Thanks to Traci for all her help in coordinating the meeting.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

- November 2008 – Nuclear Engineering Reception @ ANS Winter Meeting in Reno, NV
- December 2008 – 4th Quarter PSNES Meeting (via telecon) during 1st Week of December

12:45 Adjourn

ATTACHMENT 2 – PSES DECEMBER 3, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

Those attending were: Jane Harris, Jerry Kolbe, Pat Loftus, Ron Lombard, Trish Long, Susan McNulty-Atwater, Bill Nace, Rich Randall, Jennifer Theiss, and Stefanie Tomlinson

Susan McNulty-Atwater began the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Proposed Dates for 2009 Board Meetings

S. McNulty-Atwater said she met with John Mikita and J. Theiss a few weeks ago and they came up with some proposed dates for next year's Board meetings. They are:

- February 27: This meeting was scheduled to coincide with the Rube Goldberg contest on Saturday, February 28. A tour of the MorningStar solar house, located near the visitor's center, has been scheduled for Saturday morning. Another possible social event is a Lady Lions basketball game on Thursday, February 26, at 7 p.m. vs. Northwestern.
- June 5: This meeting is the same day as the Alumni Association's Traditional Reunion Weekend reception in Kunkle Lounge at 1:30 p.m. The departments also give tours starting at 1:45 p.m. Interested PSES members could participate in these tours.
- September 16: This is a *tentative* date. It was difficult to come up with a date for the third quarter because August is a busy time with vacations and students returning to campus, and there is a home football game every weekend in September. This proposed date is the Wednesday before the Temple game, which is not as popular as some other opponents. Alternatively, we can hold the meeting on Friday, October 2. Please provide your feedback and preferred meeting date to Stefanie by December 23.
- November 20: This is also a *tentative* date. It is the Friday before Thanksgiving and the last day for students until after Thanksgiving. There are home football games the first two Saturdays in November.

J. Kolbe asked if the format of the meetings is changing. S. McNulty-Atwater explained that meetings will still start at 10:00 a.m. because many people travel the day of the meeting, but committees are welcome to meet before 10:00 a.m. if they choose. The end time of the meetings will be dependent on other activities (tours, guest speakers, etc.) planned that day. PSES could also consider starting the day with tours and then have the meeting. J. Theiss reiterated that the June 5 meeting will have to end early because the reunion department tours start at 1:45 p.m.

R. Lombard asked if there are backup dates in case of inclement weather. S. McNulty-Atwater suggested the backup date for the February meeting be Friday, March 27, 2009, the same day as the PSES Faculty/Staff Awards ceremony.

P. Loftus asked if there was any consideration to scheduling the February meeting around Career week. S. McNulty-Atwater replied that there is a reception being held on Wednesday, February 4, 2009, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Alumni Lounge at the Nittany Lion Inn for recruiters who are College of Engineering alumni. PSES Board members are welcome to attend.

B. Nace suggested having the September meeting at the Altoona campus. S. McNulty-Atwater said it is a great idea to go to other campus locations. J. Theiss explained that, due to the increased costs of having a meeting at another location, she would have to check into room rentals, etc. and follow up with the Board.

Rube Goldberg Machine Contest

J. Harris reported that six teams have signed up. Five have competed in the past (Penn State New Kensington, Penn State Brandywine, ASME, SHPE, and Envisioneers) and the new team is Penn State Altoona. There seems to be a lot of interest in the event, and there is definitely a culture growing around the contest. This week, the Engineering Newswire will have an article recruiting College of Engineering alumni to serve as judges and team liaisons. J. Harris will also develop a list of alternates. J. Theiss suggested advertising in *Town & Gown*, a publication distributed to local businesses. J. Harris noted that the contest is mentioned on the College's Open House web site, so visitors coming for Open House know they are welcome to attend the Rube Goldberg Contest as well. R. Lombard asked what time judges need to report. J. Harris said judges should be in the HUB by noon and team liaisons should report by 9:00 a.m. B. Nace asked what experience is needed to be a judge. J. Harris explained that the National Rube Goldberg Contest officials have established criteria for the machines and all the information is in a packet that judges receive prior to the contest. You can also visit <http://www.engr.psu.edu/RubeGoldberg/JudgingCriteria.aspx> for more information.

January Board Conference Call

The January conference call has been canceled.

PSES Role Sheets

S. McNulty-Atwater reported that the PSES Executive Board (John Mikita, Frank Arieta, and Susan) met with Jennifer Theiss via conference call to discuss changes to the current Board member role sheets (i.e. what it means to be PSES president and what duties and expectations are associated with the position). Stefanie is in the process of updating the sheets and will email them to the Board for a vote at the February Board meeting.

Mentoring Committee/APG Update

R. Randall said it looks like there could be three or four departments starting APGs or resuscitating their former APGs. Engineering Science and Mechanics, Electrical Engineering, and Architectural Engineering have expressed an interest in a mentoring program in conjunction with their APGs. Karen Sweeney has been involved with talks in the Architectural Engineering department, and J. Kolbe and Mark Wharton have been involved with Electrical Engineering. Engineering Science and Mechanics has an alumni group that wants to transition to an APG. J. Theiss reported that Karen Sweeney and the AE group has already had two conference call meetings with Chimay Anumba, the Architectural Engineering department head. Karen Thole, head of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, will participate in their January call. R. Randall said that Jerry Robertson suggested inviting the heads of Engineering Science and Mechanics, Electrical Engineering, and Architectural Engineering to a Board meeting. Jerry Robertson would prefer they all meet and get the information at the same time so it's "one and done." S. McNulty-Atwater said PSES could invite them all to the February meeting. J. Theiss will invite the department heads. R. Randall noted that he had given Jerry Robertson input in the mentor/mentee guidelines and these comments will be shared with PSMES. R. Randall is designing a template for one final document, a mentoring action plan, which should be done in the next few weeks.

PSNES Update

P. Loftus reported that MNE is having a spring recognition banquet for seniors on February 16 at the Penn Stater. The department tied it in with recruiting week so there would be networking opportunities. PSNES has selected one student to receive an academic award and one student to receive a service and leadership award. Both students are juniors and will be recognized at the February 16 banquet with a certificate and an alumni-funded cash award of \$750. The PSNES fourth-quarter meeting will be a conference call on December 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join the call, and the student award winners are participating on the call as well. Karen Thole asked PSNES to consider a mentoring program because the nuclear engineering program has grown and the students would still be able to have individual attention with a mentor.

R. Lombard suggested blocking hotel rooms for non-Big Ten football weekends. S. McNulty-Atwater will contact Kevin Barron to see if this is possible. It was noted that there is a two-night minimum on football weekends and most places charge double rates.

S. McNulty-Atwater wrapped up the call at 12:54 p.m.