

**APPROVED MINUTES OF PSNES 1st QUARTER MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2009 - Telecon**

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

Participants:

Pat Loftus – President
Rick Etling – Secretary/Treasurer (partial)
Jack Brenizer – Program Chair (partial)
Len Pasquini – PSNES Past President
Mike Meholic – ANS Student Chapter Pres.

Directors:

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

Others:

James Stavely
Ron Brown
James Stover
Joe Sholtis

Old Business

- **Meeting Minutes Approval-** The December 9, 2008 Telecon Meeting Minutes were approved as written. (See PSNES Website)
- **PSNES Financial Report** – After covering the 2008-2009 Undergraduate Awards, there is funding available to support the 2009-2010 Academic Year awards. Additional funds will be needed to sustain the awards. Those Alumni who have/want to pledge contributions to ensure the award can be sustained should contact the NucE Program for additional information on how to designate alumni contributions to ensure they are applied to the PSNES Awards. Balance in the Awards and General Account will be reported when available.
- **PSNES Board Change** (NucE Faculty Member) – **Action: Jack Brenizer to identify Faculty representative to replace Dr. Larry Hochreiter.** Action remains open.
- **Benchmark Activities Report** – Under an e-mail cover letter from the PSNES President, the survey was distributed to 14 universities with responses requested by March 30, 2009. As of February 25th, 3 responses had been received. **Action: Results to be reported at April Meeting by Rick Etling/Mark Lloyd.**
- **NucE 50th Anniversary Best Practices - E-mail report from Doug Wood.** “I attended the recent 50th anniversary symposium of the University of Michigan's Nuclear Engineering & Radiological Sciences 50th anniversary of their program last fall. Their program announcement can be viewed on the following website: <http://www-ners.engin.umich.edu/nersanniv/index.html>

Their celebration placed a high priority on program alumni returning to campus to socialize with old friends, to re-familiarize themselves with and reconnect to the program, and to receive and exchange technical information. The program began on a Sunday night with an informal wine & buffet reception, during which there was a poster session in an adjacent room showcasing the recent accomplishments of department faculty and students. Monday and Tuesday consisted of both structured symposium-style talks and facility tours and open houses. There was also an evening banquet on Monday night. The symposium was opened with a nationally acclaimed keynote speaker, followed by talks by faculty and alumni on subjects ranging from their technical research, recollections of good times during their studies in the department, and advice to aspiring students both inside and outside the department. The registration packet materials consisted of a campus map, symposium booklet, department coffee mug, and "coffee table book" depicting the University of Michigan campus. The picture book was compiled by Dr Jim Duderstadt, UM nuclear engineering professor emeritus and past UM President (hence a connection with the department). The symposium booklet included the symposium schedule, list of pre-registered guests, and a brief written & pictorial history of the department. There were also several "open mike" sessions where participants had the opportunity to talk or interact with each other outside the structured scheduled topics.

Although I was only able to attend the opening reception, feedback I received from other participants confirmed that the symposium met its objectives of facilitating renewed contact with old friends, new friends, and the department. My opinion is that in terms of keepsakes from the event, the history of the department should have been more substantial with more pictures of facilities, people, and noteworthy accomplishments, as well as being separate from the symposium program. I also think an inscription inside the cover of the "coffee table book" (perhaps signed by Jim Duderstadt) would have better tied the gift book to the 50th symposium and enhanced its keepsake value.

I have loaned my materials from the UofM 50th anniversary symposium to Traci (Shimmel) for use in assisting the department and PSNES to plan the Penn State 50th Anniversary Celebration."

- **PSNES Undergraduate Student Awards Program** – The first award recipients were Stephanie Zwolinski (PSNES Leadership and Service in Nuclear Engineering) and Jennifer Jarvis (PSNES Excellence in Nuclear Engineering). Each recipient received a letter of recognition and a \$1,000 cash award in the Fall of 2008 and a plaque during the MNE Recognition Event in February 2009. PSNES Award Committee Members Jim Tusar and Ed Klevans as well as PSNES member Jim Stavely were in attendance. MNE recognition event areas for improvement will be communicated to the Department/Program (turn off slide show during presentations, slide show should include photos of award winners and their activities, name tags for students should include their major, name tags for participants and program identification of sponsors should note PSNES members/Award Committee Members). Kick-off for the 2009-2010 Awards will occur at the April PSNES Meeting with the formation of the 2009-2010 Awards Committee. **Action; Members to self-nominate for Awards Committee via e-mail to Pat Loftus, Jim Tusar, Ed Klevans, and Jeff Jeffries by April 9, 2009.**
- **Potential New Initiative: Nuclear Engineering Student Mentoring Program** – ANS Student President Mike Meholic noted that the growth of the program, large size of the Junior Class, and resulting reductions in "available" face time with MNE faculty members are important factors for PSNES to consider in making a decision on this potential new initiative. His view is that there may be potential interest from 20-25 ANS student chapter members. He also noted that the Annual Picnic held in September at Sunset Park in State College would be an opportunity for PSNES members to connect with students. Joe Sholtis shared his experiences from the University of New Mexico (UNM) mentoring program. The UNM program pulsed alumni to identify those willing to serve as mentors. Mentors had their contact info/bio on the website with photo. Joe noted there were three events which drew participation: 1) decision on major, 2) just prior to graduation (job search), and 3) young professional networking. The key feature of the UNM program was that it was student driven (student doing the match up) which reduced the burden of administration and helped with sustainability. PSNES members brainstormed potential ideas including signup/posting mentor info on the PSNES Website, Student/Mentor meeting during the ANS meetings (standing agenda), and communications

via e-mail and telecom and on-campus events/meetings. Burden of administration of the Program is an important factor. **Actions: Mike Meholic to pulse student body beyond ANS via a short on-line survey including questions on preferred method of connection (e.g., E-mail, on-campus meetings, ANS meetings, telecon).** The PSNES Board will have the opportunity to comment on the survey prior to its distribution to the students. PSNES Members will review the ME Mentoring Handbook on the PSMES Website. Joe Sholtis has identified additional info/website on the UNM program. This will be an Agenda topic for the April PSNES Annual Meeting. Members in addition to Jim Stover who have interest in developing this initiative further in order to bring it to the full Board should contact Pat Loftus.

- o Website: <http://www.me.psu.edu/Alumni/PSMES/Mentor.html>
- o Website: <http://mentor.unmalumni.com/>.

- **New Initiative: Nuclear Engineering Fact Sheets** – The Board approved an initiative to create a “Fact Sheet” which will include a list of websites, frequently ask questions (as available), and a set of “contacts” that would be willing to interact directly with those making inquiries regarding nuclear engineering experiences or topics. Once available, this “fact sheet” could be posted to the PSNES website or distributed by the NucE Program upon request. It was noted that there is a potential tie into the Mentoring Program should PSNES proceed with an initiative. Members briefly brainstormed resources that could be tapped including global industry and professional websites (e.g., Nuclear Energy Institute, American Nuclear Society, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, PSU, etc.), NucE Presentations at “Major Night”, the College of Engineering Advising Center/Handbook and materials provided to “prospective” students. Several members noted that one-on-one contact on an adhoc basis is important to support outreach activities particularly in support of elementary – high school students. **Action: Rich Martin, Mark Lloyd, Jim Stover, Joe Sholtis and Pat Loftus to prepare a draft work product for Board review at the April 2009 Annual Meeting.**
- **2009 PSNES Elections** – During the December 9th Meeting, the Board approved the roster of candidates brought forward by the Nominating Committee in accordance with the Society Constitution. No new candidates self-nominated during the 30 day-nomination period. The Website has been updated with Candidate Statements (as available). The on-line voting for designated Board Officers/Directors will take place from March 20th – April 20th and will be announced via a PSNES Member notification.

New Business

- **Department, Program, RSEC, ANS Student Chapter, PSMES and PSES News**
 - o 2010 Program enrollment is estimated to exceed prior all-time peaks (>70).
 - o Degrees granted this year ~ 45. Next year will set a record at > 46.
 - o The formation meeting of the MNE Nuclear Power Advisory Board was held on February 25th. The goal is to promote Pennsylvania/regional economic development and nuclear outreach and fills a need not served by PSNES or IPAC. Board members include representation from utilities, vendors to the nuclear industry, national labs, and regulators. One of the 'first initiatives is a Nuclear Symposium to be held in October 2009 at Penn State. Rick Etling has been asked to serve as the Board Chair during the formation period (1 year). News of this Board's events which may be of interest to PSNES will be shared as available.
 - o Faculty Update – Dr. Ünlü is now a fully tenured professor. Dr Mahaffy retired in December and is consulting with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Dr. Maria Avramova has been hired for a 5-year (non-tenure) position with expertise in thermal hydraulics. The search for faculty continues.
 - o The Larry E. Hochreiter Distinguished MNE Lecture Series has been fully endowed with approval by the Penn State Board expected soon.
 - o The MNE Department's senior recognition event was held on February 16th. The keynote speaker was Dr. Forrest Remick. (See Old Business for additional information.)
- **Adhoc Student Outreach Support to the NucE Program** - Society members discussed the current opportunity (due March 6th) to provide insights on “life as a nuclear engineer” in response to specific questions to support a high school student assignment to “interview a nuclear engineer”. **Action: Board to provide responses to student by March 6th.** (See New Initiative on Nuclear Engineering Fact Sheet above for additional discussion.)

- **Recognition Initiatives** – The National Museum of Nuclear Science and History in Albuquerque, NM is scheduled to open in April of 2009. (www.nuclearmuseum.org). The NucE Program /PSNES were requested to consider financial sponsorship (\$5K) of an “element” tile in the granite Periodic Table of the Elements which could include a commemoration of PSU nuclear pioneers and sponsor name. After discussion, the Board concluded that financial sponsorship was not feasible but proposed to explore alternative options (e.g., artifacts from PSU or other means to provide recognition of PSU’s role). **Action: Pat Loftus to make contact and determine if alternative options may exist to enable PSNES/PSU NucE Program presence.**

- **Recognition Initiatives : Potential New Initiative – PSU Nuclear Engineering Living Memorial**
 - Members cited PSU’s unique contributions to nuclear engineering - 1955 founding of ANS, 5 decades (and counting) of past and current nuclear pioneers (i.e., Dr. Palladino, Dr. Witzig, Dr. Hochreiter, Dr. Levine, Dr. Remick, Dr. Jacobs, etc.), and the Radiation Science and Engineering Center (longest continuously licensed operating university reactor in the US (License #2) as examples which exemplify “We Are Penn State Nuclear Engineering”.
 - Board discussion focused on potential expansion of the “semi-living” PSU NucE Outstanding Engineering Alumni (OEA) Wall (plaques) and/or RSEC “directors’ wall” to include a “living nuclear memorial” at PSU.
 - Concepts considered included a plaque to be added to the OEA wall in Reber Building or the RSEC that would include Nuc E pioneers (bolt-on name plates) which enables new additions to be added over time and/or a “3-4 minute flash video/loop video” that can be touch activated.
 - **A proposal (which may include a request to conduct fund raising for specific initiatives as permitted by the Constitution) will be brought to the Board for review during the April 2009 Annual Meeting. Action: Rich Martin, Jim Stover, Bill Naughton**

- **Nuclear Engineering 50th Anniversary Plans and Support** – The celebration will take place in the 2009-2010 academic year. Kickoff will be the Nuclear Symposium at Penn State in mid-October 2009. The celebration will continue at the NucE/PSNES Reception to be held during the ANS Winter Meeting (Washington DC) in mid-November. Plans for a potential small wrap-up in the Spring of 2010 are still fluid. The Program is requesting PSNES support to make the 50th Anniversary and specifically the NucE/PSNES Reception a memorable one including potential support to enable PSU’s nuclear pioneers to be recognized, PSNES sponsored “mementos”, history/events/alumni “slide show or DVD” to run during the reception. **Action: PSNES Members to join Pat Loftus, Jeff Jeffries, Jim Tusar and Doug Wood in forming a committee to support 50th Anniversary celebration.** PSNES support will be a topic for the April Annual Meeting.

- **2009-2010 PSNES Priorities and Focus Items:**
 - PSNES Undergraduate Student Awards Implementation (2009-2010 Academic Year)
 - PSNES Officer/Board Elections (March-April 2009)
 - 2009-2010 MNE Recognition Events support
 - Nuclear Engineering Program 50th Anniversary Celebration support (2009-2010 Academic Year)
 - Regional Networking Events with MNE Participation
 - Recognition Initiatives
 - On-Campus Student Seminars/Speaking Opportunities – **members are requested to nominate industry representatives**
 - Involvement in PSES or PSMES activities and initiatives
 - Outreach Activities (elementary-college students, young professionals) including Nuclear Engineering Fact Sheet

- 2009 Upcoming Events & Meetings
 - April 25, 2009 - PSNES Annual Meeting @ PSU in conjunction with Blue-White Weekend
 - April 25, 2009 - Blue-White Tail Gate sponsored by PSU Student ANS @ Beaver Stadium
 - October 1st – PSNES Quarterly Meeting via telecom (11:30-1:00 PM US Eastern Time)
 - Mid-October – Nuclear Symposium @ PSU
 - November 16th – PSNES Quarterly Meeting (Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington DC)
 - November 16th 50th Anniversary Celebration @ NucE/PSNES Reception (ANS Winter Meeting location -Omni-Shoreham Hotel in Washington DC)
 - PSES Meeting on June 5th (Alumni Reunion Weekend reception and Department tours).

- Members Roundtable – Topic Deferred to April Annual Meeting
 - 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.

12:58 Adjourn