

**APPROVED MINUTES OF 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER PSNES MEETING  
(Teleconference)  
September 23, 2010**

**11:30 Welcome, Member Roll Call, and Announcements** – Pat Loftus called the teleconference meeting to order, and after a roll call, confirmed a quorum to conduct business.

**Board Participants:**

Pat Loftus – President  
Rick Etling – VP/President Elect  
Doug Wood – Secretary/Treasurer  
Arthur Motta – Ex-Officio NE Program Chair with vote

**PSNES Directors:**

Jim Tusar  
Jim Stavely  
Ron Brown  
Dick Gill  
Ed Klevans  
Jeff Jeffries  
Mark Lloyd

**PSNES Members:**

Joe Sholtis

**Board Proxy Votes (designated via e-mail to PSNES President):**

James Stover  
Kenan Ünlü (NE Faculty Member with vote, Ex-Officio RRSEC Director with vote)

**Other:**

Zachary Van Horn – Ex-Officio ANS Student Chapter President (without vote)  
Tory Fryer – MNE Department  
Don Lenze – College of Engineering  
Karen Thole – MNE Department Head (part time)

**Old Business**

- **Meeting Minutes Approval** - The April 26, 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as written. (See Attachment 2)
- **PSNES Financial Report (Tory Fryer)**  
The status of the PSNES finances and account balances (relative to the April 26, 2010 reported balances) is as follows.

Cost Center	April 2010 Balance	Net Additions	September 2010 Balance
PSNES General Account	\$3370.16	\$927.10	\$4297.26
PSNES Student Awards	\$2050	\$2000	\$4050.00

- The net additions are principally due to alumni contributions
- There are sufficient funds in the student awards account to fund the \$1000 annual Undergraduate Service Student Service and Leadership Award for the four remaining years until it is permanently endowed in the spring of 2014
- **PSNES 2009-2010 Undergraduate Student Awards Report and Sustainability Update on Sustainability of the Awards (Don Lenze)**
  - There have historically been two annual PSNES Undergraduate Student Awards, one for service & leadership and one for academic excellence.

- Because the former PSNES Academic Excellence award is now fully endowed as the John J. Brennan Excellence in Nuclear Engineering Award and the recipient is selected by the Nuclear Engineering Program, it is no longer under PSNES purview.
- Pat (Beecher) Loftus has graciously pledged to contribute funds to permanently endow the present PSNES Student Service and Leadership Award by the spring of 2014. An Award Committee including PSNES representation will continue to assist in selecting the award recipient both in the interim period and beyond its permanent endowment according to the endowment plan.
- **Resolution Passed by the Board: PSNES will financially underwrite the \$1000 cost/year of the PSNES Service and Leadership Award until it is fully endowed by 2014 (4 years, 1 award/year @ \$1000 each) based on the availability of sufficient balance in the PSNES Student Awards Cost Center.**

**Update from Awards Committee (Jim Tusar)**

- It was reiterated that the undergraduate student awards are one of the 3 top priorities for PSNES
- It was acknowledged that at the present time, the \$1000 Undergraduate Student Service and Leadership Award, with the recipient selected by the Award Committee, is the only active PSNES student award.
- As in the past, the intent is to announce the award recipient and provide the monetary consideration each fall and present the award at the MNE Recognition Event so the recognition can be reflected on the student's resume.
- The following timeline was established for the 2010-2011 award cycle. At the request of Arthur Motta, it was agreed that the dates for the nomination deadline, decision, and announcement could be extended one week due to a delay in distributing the nomination package to the Nuclear Engineering faculty [bracketed dates]. This request was made in the interest of obtaining quality nominations.
  - Call for nominations published – September 10, 2010
  - Nomination deadline – September 30, 2010 [October 8, 2010]
  - Decision – October 13, 2010 [October 20, 2010]
  - Announcement – October 18, 2010 [October 25, 2010]
- This year a minor change was made to the application form to properly reflect its sole intended use to select an award recipient.
- **Nuclear Engineering Student Mentoring Program Commitment and Startup**
  - The Board reiterated both its commitment to the student mentoring program as one of the 3 PSNES priorities and its intention to launch the program during the Fall 2010 term.
  - PSNES will initially launch its student mentoring program in Fall 2010 through a combination of e-mail solicitations, faculty class announcements, and electronic ANGEL postings and resources. Students will be able to screen, select, and contact Alumni network/mentor volunteers using information posted on ANGEL. Unlike some other department mentoring programs, PSNES has elected to have a student driven mentoring strategy with strong reliance on the student taking the initiative to select and make contact with Alumni network/mentor volunteers.
  - This strategy has the full support of the PSU ANS Student Chapter Leadership. PSNES, the Nuclear Engineering Program, and the PSU Student ANS are fostering opportunities to supplement the program with face-to-face interaction between students and career professionals.
  - Pat Loftus, Jim Stavely, Jim Tusar, Joe Sholtis, Rick Etling, Doug Wood, and George Smith have agreed to be Alumni network mentors. Tory Fryer is available to assist Alumni network/mentor volunteers in getting their biographical and contact information onto the ANGEL site. **Action: Any Alumni network/mentors who have not yet provided their information were urged to do that as soon as possible.**
  - It was stressed that all possible mechanisms to announce and promote the program be used, including e-mail, ANGEL postings, Program announcements, faculty announcements during classes, and whenever possible, face-to-face opportunities where students and mentors can socialize and exchange information.
  - To maximize the appeal and effectiveness of the program, it was stressed that the program recognize both longer-term student-mentor relationships and short informational interviews and question/answer situations where students can ask one or more Alumni network volunteers for information without further commitment.

- An action carried forward from the April 26 meeting to prepare a student invitation to use the program and explain how it works suitable for posting on ANGEL was again suggested. **Action: Tory Fryer will write a draft of this communication for PSNES review to support launching the program as soon as possible.** This communication should also identify focus areas and benefits of the program such as career counseling, resume review, etc.
- Joe Sholtis passed on a lesson learned from a similar initiative at the University of New Mexico to make sure the program and infrastructure are ready when you start to advertise it to the students. Another pointer was that the mentor biographical information include a complete career history since this information is important to many students in selecting a mentor.
- Zach Van Horn stressed that the students desire as many opportunities for face-to-face contact with Alumni as possible, and urged Nuclear Engineering Alumni volunteers to check in with the Program or PSU Student ANS branch whenever visiting University Park. Lunch, dinner, reception, “career fairs”, and social hour venues are particularly helpful for the students in helping them screen mentors and decide what they may want to discuss with them. Some of the expected student interest is advice on course selections, discussion of possible internships or student projects, resume reviews, career path discussion, advice on career paths for various levels of education, etc.
- **New Recognition Proposal – NucE Time Capsule (Joe Sholtis)**
  - Joe Sholtis explained that his ad-hoc proposal that PSNES consider burying a time capsule was motivated both by the recent commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Program and the PSNES tabling of the living memorial initiative.
  - Jennifer Theiss had reported by e-mail that there is a PSU precedent for a time capsule in the floor of the HUB. The advantage of such a location is that it will not be lost in time and can be designed in a way to make it visible through the floor and easy to retrieve. Don Lenz reported that Karen Thole had a vision to create a MNE lounge in the Reber building in the future, and that such a lounge might be able to incorporate such a time capsule into its design. Having the capsule within MNE Department space could also create opportunities for cost sharing between PSNES, the MNE Department, and the University. Arthur Motta said he could support the idea if the group proposed a viable concept.
  - After discussion, the Board requested that someone further investigate the feasibility, conceptual details, and cost for such a time capsule and bring a proposal to the Board at a future meeting for action. **Action: Joe Sholtis agreed to lead a small committee to study the idea further and if warranted, bring such a proposal to the board. Don Lenz said he and Jennifer Theiss can assist on campus, and Ed Klevans also volunteered to assist.**

## New Business

### Department, Program, RSEC, & Student ANS News / Updates

- **NME Departmental Update (Karen Thole)**
  - Dr. Thole acknowledged the appointment of Dr. Arthur Motta as the new Nuclear Engineering Program Chair and Tory Fryer as the new program assistant and PSNES interface, taking the place of Dr. Jack Brenizer and Traci Shimmel, respectively. Karen thanked Jack and Traci for their hard work and service to the Program and welcomed Arthur and Tory in their new roles.
  - Dr. Thole thanked PSNES for their support of the Nuclear Engineering program in the form of the undergraduate student awards as well the financial support of individuals to fund the awards and general account.
  - There are presently 120 Nuclear Engineering juniors, a historic high for the department. Of these, 90 are Nuclear Engineering majors and the balances are in the NucE/ME dual degree program.
  - The record enrollment has caused the need for a curriculum review to address scaling up for the increased enrollment as well as reviewing the relevance of the course materials and faculty expertise.
  - The Capstone senior curriculum that focuses on hands-on design experience is receiving increased attention; the ME Capstone program is being used as a model for NucE. In particular, the Westinghouse senior design projects can only accommodate 52 students and there is a desire for project diversity for the remaining sections. The NME department, the NucE Program, and the Nuclear Power Advisory Board (represented by Rick Etling) were all optimistic that additional corporate support would be offer to meet the challenge for the spring senior design projects. The

department is also considering expanding the Capstone concept to a junior-level design course that will better prepare seniors for the senior design projects.

- Other personnel changes in the NE Program include the recent addition of Associate Professor Igor Jovanovic, whose research and academic interests include reactor physics, nuclear fusion, nuclear materials security, nuclear detection for nonproliferation applications, and forensics. Dr. Jovanovic comes to us from Purdue, where he was an Assistant Professor of Nuclear Engineering. Dr. Jovanovic brings 6 graduate students and 6 funded projects to Penn State, and plans to introduce a new nuclear fusion course this year.
- Kenan Ünlü will be managing work through a National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA) grant to study nuclear safety issues and related programs. Texas A&M and MIT are also participating in this grant.
- Dr. Thole acknowledged the PSNES focus areas of undergraduate student awards, student mentoring, and increased engagement of alumni and reiterated that she and the Department support these priority areas. She mentioned that if PSNES decides to pursue the idea of a NE time capsule, that project was of interest to her.
- In response to a question regarding how recent cutbacks at the university level (as much as a \$15 million shortfall next year) were expected to impact Nuclear Engineering, she indicated that it is too soon to know how it will affect future faculty hires which are managed at the College level. She does not expect any faculty cutbacks in the NME Department.
- **Nuclear Engineering Program Report (Dr. Arthur Motta)**
  - The size of the student enrollment is creating a buzz in general terms, and specifically, is straining the resources of the Program. The NucE 135 seminar class can no longer fit in the 110-seat auditorium used for that class.
  - The NucE 135 seminars are being recorded on video media. The program for this school year is filling up with high quality speakers. NRC Commissioner George Apostolakis is one of the Spring speakers.
  - There were 49 Nuclear Engineering BS degree awarded last May.
  - There is new research coming into the department.
  - Although there is no formal source of data for job offers for NucE Program graduates,
    - As of last May, of 22 grads surveyed, 12 did not have a job offer. Several of them returned to graduate school, several had jobs in the military, and some are still looking.
    - The number of NucE graduates with no job offers last May appears to be higher than recent years, but also appears to be lower than other majors.
    - There appears to be a soft job market this year due to the economy in general.
- **RSEC Report (written report provided by Kenan Ünlü, RSEC Director)**
  - DOE-NNSA GTRI has awarded a grant to Penn State, MIT, and Texas A & M for creation of a Nuclear Security Education Program. Penn State will be working with Professor Lanza from MIT and Professor Charlton from Texas A & M on this program.
  - DOE-Office of Science granted two year funding to RSEC to streamline the facility's Industrial Isotope production processes and to perform research on certain Medical Isotopes (that are not Mo-99 related).
- **Student ANS Report (Zach Van Horn)**
  - There are approximately 50 paid members of the chapter. 70 students attended the first fall meeting.
  - The student chapter is emphasizing outreach activities for both the general public and student members. These include
    - Breazeale Reactor family weekend
    - Boy Scout Saturday (repeat of successful spring 2010 event)
    - Varied social activities
  - The student chapter is promoting the spring 2011 ANS National Student conference. Due to a lack of early publicity, the 2010 conference at the University of Michigan was not as well attended as it could have been.
- **PSMES Report (written report provided)**
  - A written report on the recent activities and accomplishments of PSMES was provided for the meeting but was not discussed on the teleconference. It is provided in its entirety in Attachment 1 to these minutes.

## PSNES Board Actions

- **Board Vacancy through 2011 Election – Resignation of Dr. Rich Martin**
  - Pat Loftus announced that PSNES received notice that Dr. Rich Martin has resigned to pursue medical school. The Board was reminded that the position may remain vacant or the Board may appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term. Rich Martin's term ending in 2011.
  - Joe Sholtis confirmed his interest in serving as a Board member for this period if the Board chooses to appoint a replacement.
  - **Resolution Passed by the Board: Joe Sholtis shall be appointed to serve as PSNES Board Member for the remainder of Rich Martin's term expiring in 2011.**
  -
- **PSNES Board of Directors Orientation Briefing Update**
  - Pat Loftus reminded officers and board members that a document describing each of the Board offices, positions, and associated responsibilities had been distributed by e-mail. There was no further discussion on this topic.
- **2011 PSNES General Election & Board Nominating Committee Formation**
  - Rick Etling reminded the Board that elections were coming up and that a Nominating Committee was needed to develop the slate of candidates for open positions.
  - Rick Etling will chair the Nominating Committee. Dick Gill, Mark Lloyd, Jim Tusar, and Jim Stavely volunteered to be members of the committee.
  - The slate of candidates and timeline for the elections will be on the agenda for the November meeting.
- **PSNES Constitution Updates**
  - Pat Loftus identified the needed for a review of the PSNES Constitution. Proposed changes will be distributed and considered at the November 2010 PSNES meeting.

## New Recognition Initiatives Proposals

- **None**

## Alumni Outreach – Suggestions for PSNES Articles or Events

- **Alumni Outreach as a PSNES Priority & Focus Area**
  - The Board affirmed that alumni outreach will continue to be one of the three PSNES priorities and focus areas. PSNES will continue to look for more effective ways to expand the active alumni base and engage alumni in ways that support the Nuclear Engineering Program.
- **University Alumni Database Update and PSNES Access to its Information**
  - Tory Fryer and Don Lenze explained that the university constantly updates its alumni information database with the latest and best available information. There are certain approved "appropriate" uses for which personal or contact information may be used within the university, but Tory is not certain whether PSNES has access to all Nuclear Engineering alumni information in the university database for the purpose of contacting NucE alumni. Tory is certain that PSNES does have access to alumni information for those that have registered as PSNES members.
  - Tory indicated that the Program is able to access a list of approximately 1400 NucE alumni, and has used this list to invite recipients to join PSNES. Obviously, it is advantageous to the Program for alumni to provide mailing addresses and e-mail addresses, recognizing that mail addresses tend to be more stable but e-mail mailings cost virtually nothing. The MNE department also sends a printed newsletter magazine to its ~13,000 alumni, in which there have been requests for alumni to sign up as members of PSNES and PSMES.
  - Joe Sholtis reiterated recent experience at University of New Mexico where through solicitations related to an alumni directory update (with opportunities for the recipient to release or conditionally release their contact information), the Nuclear Engineering program there was able to significantly increase the percentage of its alumni for which they had contact information.
  - The Board agreed this subject warrants further discussion. **Action: Joe Sholtis agreed, with the help of Tory Fryer (and Jennifer Theiss), to seek further information on the feasibility of using university data to reach more of our NucE alumni and engage them in PSNES.**

- **Corporate and Alumni Sponsors for Senior Design Projects**
  - A short-term priority for alumni outreach is to identify organizations and volunteers that can support the increase in (and expected ongoing) demand for meaningful and challenging Senior Design Projects relevant to the nuclear engineering field in the Spring 2011 semester.
  - **Action: Dr. Motta will send an invitation for proposals describing requirements and expectations for outside sponsorship of Senior Class Projects to the e-mail distribution for the PSNES Board.**
- **Other Actions**
  - Board Members to provide contact information updates to Pat Loftus.
  - Arthur Motta to communicate any formal plans for a gathering at the Winter 2010 ANS Meeting location in Las Vegas. (The Program indicated that the West Coast reception was under review. Alumni are encouraged to provide the program with feedback on the value of the reception (East, West Coast).)
  - PSNES Website is a key element of alumni outreach. A PSNES update is needed including the addition of the Nuclear Engineering Mentor Program as well as to enable the 2011 on-line election process.
  - The Program indicated intent to begin a junior level design project initiative starting in the next academic year. Corporate and Alumni Sponsors will be needed. The Program is to provide additional information when the time is right.

**Adjourn - at approximately 1:13 PM.**

## ATTACHMENT 1

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2010 Penn State Mechanical Engineering Society (PSMES) Newsletter

The Penn State Mechanical Engineer Society continues to support of the students and alumni of the Mechanical Engineering program at Penn State through a growing number of initiatives! Below, you will find a brief update on all of our efforts, including ways you get directly involved in many of them. You will also find a link to a survey that we would ask you to take for us to better understand the interests of the more than 1000 members of PSMES....

- **Mentoring:** In our third year, the mentoring program continues to me a model for the College of Engineering. With more than 70 volunteer mentors (alumni) who have the capacity to mentor 136 students, we had 105 students registered by last spring. This fall (22Aug), we held a mentoring orientation/social with the incoming junior class and expect them to be our biggest class yet in the program. The PSMES committee leading the effort has made improvements in the process and supporting website. If you have not registered and would like to be a mentor, or if you already are a mentor and want to update your profile or status of your mentoring relationship, go to <http://www.mne.psu.edu/Alumni/PSMES/Mentoring/AppMentor.cfm>. The matching process will be taking place for new students over the coming weeks and you will be notified via email if one or more student has been assigned to you.
- **Communication:** In addition to these emails, PSMES uses the MNE website, the MNE News (snail mail), Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/PSUMechEng> and LinkedIn to communicate with its members (we don't Tweet!). Look for updates in all these media, but let us know your preference in the survey below.
- **Networking:** PSMES is designated network on LinkedIn as the Penn State Mechanical Engineering Alumni Association. We will be expanding our use of the tools available to allow increased networking across the ME alumni (note the Penn State Engineering Alumni Association and the Penn State Alumni Association also have groups you can join). The site will also be used to support our mentoring program by providing discussion topics. If you want to join now (it's free and simple), go to <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&qid=2593655>. You can also tell us in the survey why you might be reluctant to join.
- **Student Organization Support:** PSMES is actively supporting the student ASME chapter via professional development speakers at their monthly meetings, tailgates in the fall and for the B&W game, and other events (Jeopardy, Rube Goldberg, etc.). We also are exploring way to be more engaged with the Engineers Without Borders group at Penn State. They have selected a project in Sierra Leone to provide sanitary facilities for the local school and will be looking for funding and professional support for the efforts. Contact Meghan Fisher at [mef234@psu.edu](mailto:mef234@psu.edu) if you are interested in helping out.
- **Non-travel Based International Experience:** The Department has grown their program to use the Capstone project to partner with universities/companies from around the world and provide the students with a virtual working environment seen in many of our companies today. PSMES will be supporting this groundbreaking effort by sharing our experiences, successful practices, etc. with the participating students and using our networks to continue to grow the projects available.
- **Philanthropy:** PSMES now has an active committee exploring options to support the Department and improve the student experience. We hope to share more with you soon on how you can get involved this way.
- **Board Elections:** This Fall, the Board will be soliciting interest from those PSMES members who have interest in joining our Board to guide and expand the many initiatives we have underway. Please let me know if you have any interest in joining us by completing the attached survey or contact me.
- **Survey:** **We are conducting a brief (9 questions) survey to better understand your interests and thoughts on how PSMES can be more successful as a society. Please take 5 min to go the following site and complete all of the questions... <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HTZ93F9>. Your responses are not tracked by individual unless you choose to provide such information.**

Thank you all for being part of something special at Penn State!

Bob Jepsen  
Penn State Mechanical Engineering Society – President  
[jepsen4@msn.com](mailto:jepsen4@msn.com)

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**MINUTES OF PSNES ANNUAL MEETING  
(PSU Reber Building & Telecon)  
April 26, 2010**

**10:00 Welcome, Member Roll Call, and Announcements** – Pat Loftus called the face-to-face meeting (with call-in line) to order and confirmed a quorum to conduct business. Dial-In number provided by Jim Tusar. (Thank you!)

**Board Participants:**

Pat Loftus – President  
Rick Etling – VP/President Elect  
Jack Brenizer – Program Chair

**PSNES Directors:**

Doug Wood (Acting Secretary for 4/26/10)  
Jim Tusar (via telecon)  
Jim Stavely

**PSNES Members:**

George Smith  
Jim Adams  
Sam Levine  
Jay Holtz  
Joe Sholtis (via telecon)  
Ron Brown

**Other:**

Don Lenze – College of Engineering  
Jennifer Theiss – College of Engineering  
Karen Thole – Department Mechanical & Nuclear Engr  
Traci Shimmel - Nuclear Engineering

**Board Proxy Votes (designated via e-mail to PSNES President):**

Dick Gill  
Ed Klevans  
Len Pasquini  
Jeff Jeffries  
Mark Lloyd

Following the roll call, Jack Brenizer announced to the group that after 11 years of service to the Department, he has decided to step down as the Nuclear Engineering Program Chair. His appointment will end on June 30<sup>th</sup>. After a sabbatical during the fall semester, Jack will return to teaching, research, and service as a faculty member in the Department. Karen Thole thanked Jack for his service to the program and department, and welcomed the PSNES meeting attendees.

**Old Business**

- **Meeting Minutes Approval** - The February 15, 2010 Meeting Minutes were approved as written. (See Attachment 1)
- **PSNES Financial Report (Jack Brenizer)**  
The status of the PSNES finances and account balances are unchanged from the February 15 meeting, and are repeated here for completeness.

Cost Center	2007 Balance	Expenditures	Current Balance
PSNES General Account	\$4400	\$1029.84	\$3370.16
PSNES Student Awards	\$6050	\$4000	\$2050

- There are sufficient funds to run the student awards for one more year. Additional funds will be needed to sustain the awards beyond the 2010-2011 Academic Year.
  - It is possible to allocate funding from the PSNES general account to the student Awards account if the Board approves this.
  - In addition, Jack indicated that because these awards are a priority for the Program, the Program would likely supplement the available PSNES funds if a shortfall were to occur.
  - All agreed that it is important that funding for these awards continue to be made available by PSNES members and Alumni, but that it was equally important that PSNES not actively engage in fundraising. It was noted that to date, the student award has been funded by unsolicited contributions from alumni.
- **Nuclear Engineering 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events** (Jack Brenizer)



Jack summarized the activities that have, in the aggregate, constituted the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, including:

- The L. E. Hochreiter MNE Distinguished Lecture Series was established, and the first two lectures held on campus. The inaugural lecture was given on September 3, 2009 by Dr. Aris Candris, President and CEO Westinghouse Electric Co, and the second was given on January 21, 2010 by Mr. Alan Hanson, Executive Vice President, Technologies and Used Fuel Management of AREVA.
- The 2009 Nuclear Energy Symposium was held at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center on October 15-16, 2009, led by Dr. Arthur Motta.
- The annual Nuclear Engineering Program/PSNES Reception was held on November 16, 2009 from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM in the Palladian Ballroom at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington DC (site of the ANS Winter Meeting). Over 500 attended this reception.
- The last major event in the year-long celebration is an entire day of on-campus Nuclear Engineering Program events following this PSNES Annual Meeting. Activities include a luncheon for students, alumni, and friends at the Alumni Center, tours of the department in the Reber Building, a “Molly the Trolley” hosted campus tour, and an afternoon tour of the RSEC and reactor. The day’s activities culminate with a Nuclear Engineering Alumni & Friends reception, dinner, and after-dinner speaker at the Nittany Lion Inn.
  - Although this event was highly publicized by the Program and used the user-friendly university-supported web-based reservation system, attendance is believed to have been hampered by moving this event off the Blue-White weekend and into the work week so as to not conflict with the major university-level Alumni Fundraising Campaign kickoff. A number of regrets were received from alumni that could not fit the event into weekday work schedules.
- **Potential New Initiative – PSU Nuclear Engineering Living Memorial Proposal (Rich Martin)**
  - Prior to the February meeting, Rich Martin and Jack had contacted the university Department of Communications to see if we could get someone to help us with storyboarding, potentially shooting some video and providing scripting or voiceover support for us.
  - Rich Martin confirmed that no further positive activity had transpired since the February 2010 meeting. Although the Department of Communications has the resources and capability to assist with such a project, they were only interested in providing fully funded support.
  - **The Board approved a motion to close this initiative.**
- **Nuclear Engineering Student Mentoring Program and ANGEL Pilot (All)**
  - Based on the discussions in previous meetings, the Nuclear Engineering students have confirmed an interest in a student-initiated mentor resource using ANGEL. PSNES has committed to support this mentoring initiative as one of the PSNES top three priorities. The Program has committed to assist PSNES members establish ANGEL credentials and help them learn the system.
  - There was a question as to whether recent NucE graduates could participate in the Mentoring Program. The Board reiterated that the current focus would be on current students, which was one of the reasons ANGEL was selected as the means to deploy the program. The NucE Program confirmed that access to ANGEL is automatically terminated shortly after graduation when the student computer accounts are closed. The Program would have to take the initiative to extend or reopen ANGEL access if PSNES wanted to offer the Mentoring Program beyond graduation. The Board agreed to initially offer the Mentoring Program to students only, and could consider extending it at a later time if warranted.
  - The following PSNES members have expressed an interest in being available as mentors: Rick Etling, Jim Stavely, Jim Tusar, Pat Loftus, Doug Wood, Joe Sholtis, & George Smith.
  - There was an open action from the February meeting for Board Members to go to the ANGEL site, add their picture and bio, and let others know if successful and if there were any issues. Several of the Board Members have updated their ANGEL profile with photo, contact information, and a bio or resume. Others have updated the contact information but have not uploaded photo or text files. Others have either not logged in or made any updates. Traci offered to assist members in updating their profiles if they are having difficulty and creating user accounts (with Program approval) for volunteers not on the Board.

- There is still a need for Board members and alumni (particularly those that volunteered to be mentors) to upload their information to ANGEL. **Action carrying forward for PSNES Board Members and Mentor Volunteers: Upload information, including a picture to the ANGEL site. This information should also indicate the preferred method for others to contact you.**
  - There was no follow-up discussion from past meetings of also using ANGEL for students to request Board Members or alumni to provide resume reviews. **Action carried forward: Board to consider using ANGEL for resume reviews.**
  - It was reinforced by Rick Etling that the Mentoring Program is one of the top priority and focus items for the Board in 2009-2010 and should be carried forward to 2010-2011.
  - **Action for Mentor Volunteers: draft a letter of introduction to the students for PSNES Board review that can be placed in the NucE student ANGEL space telling them about the service and how to initiate their request on a one-to-one basis with a PSNES mentor volunteer. This must be posted to ANGEL no later than June 30, 2010.**
  - **Action for Program: Create a PSNES NucE Mentoring Group in ANGEL that includes the mentoring volunteers.**
  - Other models and best practices for alumni/student mentoring programs were discussed. PSNES has a program for Mechanical Engineering students, and “templates” for their materials are available to us. Many of these other programs, unlike PSNES, have some type of central board that makes or facilitates mentor matchups. PSNES reaffirmed that our initial plan is for the PSNES program to be totally student initiated.
  - **Action carrying forward: There should be a periodic (annual) assessment of the PSNES Mentoring program.**
- **Recognition Initiatives – PSU Alumni Volunteer Awards** (Jim Tusar)
    - As discussed at the February 15 meeting, PSNES, as an Affiliate Program Group (APG), decided to nominate the PSNES Undergraduate Student Awards Program for an Alumni Volunteer Award. Jim Tusar coordinated the PSNES nomination with help from the PSNES officers to meet the March 1 due date. Jennifer Theiss confirmed that the nomination had been received and that the winner of this award has not yet been announced. The Board recognized Jim Tusar for his initiative in preparing the nomination.

## **New Business**

- **PSNES Secretary/Treasurer Vacancy**
  - Bill Naughton has resigned from his PSNES Board position of Secretary/Treasurer. His elected term of office is April 2009 to April 2011.
  - The Board recognized Bill's contribution during his multiple terms on the board.
  - Options for filling positions when resignations occur based on Section IV of the PSNES constitution were identified and discussed during the February 15 meeting.
  - Pat Loftus reminded the Board of the following terms of the present officers and board members, as well as those that cannot run for the board after their current term (marked \*) due to 2 consecutive term limit:
    - Officer Term Expires April 2011
      - President – Pat Loftus (will become Immediate Past President April 2011 – April 2013)
      - VP/President Elect – Rick Etling (will become President April 2011 – April 2013 & Immediate Past President April 2013 – April 2015)
    - At-Large Board Positions expire April 2011
      - Jeff Jeffries \*
      - Mark Lloyd \*
      - Rich Martin
      - Jim Tusar \*
    - At-Large Board Positions expire April 2013
      - Richard Gill
      - Ed Klevans \*
      - Jim Stavely
      - Jim Stover
      - Doug Wood \*

- Pat Loftus stated that both Doug Wood (Advent) and Mark Lloyd (Westinghouse) had previously expressed interest in being appointed to serve the remainder of the vacated Secretary/Treasurer term ending April 2011. Although the PSNES constitution is silent on limiting access to officer positions based on company affiliation, she and Rick Etling felt uncomfortable with having all three of the officers being Westinghouse employees, and Jack Brenizer concurred this should be avoided if possible. Based on a prior discussion of this situation, Mark Lloyd withdrew from consideration. There were no other nominees from the Board besides Doug Wood to fill the vacated Secretary/Treasurer term until April 2011. Doug Wood stated that if appointed to fill the vacancy, his preference was to return to his present At-Large Board position from April 2011 to April 2013.
  - **Resolution Passed by the Board: Doug Wood shall be appointed to serve as Secretary/Treasurer for the remainder of Bill Naughton's term expiring in April 2011, and then shall return to his At-Large Board position for the remainder of his elected term ending April 2013.**
  - Nominations were opened for persons interested in "backfilling" Doug Wood's At-Large Board position while he served as Secretary/Treasurer. Ron Brown expressed interest in this position, and there were no other nominations from the floor.
  - **Resolution Passed by the Board: Ron Brown shall be appointed to serve as At-Large Board Member for the remainder of Doug Wood's term expiring April 2011.**
  - With the approval of the resolutions above, all elected officer and board positions are filled going forward to the 2011 election. A nominating committee for the 2011 PSNES elections will be formed at the next scheduled PSNES meeting.
- **PSNES 2009-2010 Undergraduate Student Awards** - Update from Awards Committee (Jim Tusar)
    - It was reiterated that the undergraduate student awards are one of the 3 top priorities for PSNES
    - Presently, there are two awards, each with a \$1000 monetary value. These awards were presented at the February 15, 2010 MNE Senior Recognition Banquet.
      - Undergraduate Student Service and Leadership Award selected by a PSNES Awards Committee  
Emily Stumbris was the 2010 award recipient.
      - Undergraduate Student Academic Award (based on GPA) selected by the Program  
Christopher Joe Ulmer was the 2010 award recipient.
    - This year the application form for the service award was changed to get better information from the applicant and references. This change accomplished the objective and the revised form is expected to be used for next year's award. The weighted score sheet used to evaluate the applications was proven to be effective and is recommended for future awards.
    - The present balance in the Student Awards account was donated by private donors and is sufficient to fund the awards for next year.
    - **Resolution Passed by the Board: The PSNES Undergraduate Student Awards shall be continued next year using the available funding in the PSNES student awards account.**
    - The award applications need to be available no later than October 2010 for next year's awards.
    - Ed Klevans, Jeff Jeffries, Jim Tusar, and Ron Brown volunteered to be on the Awards Committee for the 2011 awards. **Action: Jim Tusar to send out an e-mail to initiate the committee's activities, which will include selecting a leader or committee chair.**
    - The College of Engineering Development representative strongly suggested that PSNES embark on a longer-term objective to make the awards self-sustaining. The preferred model would be to endow the awards, which would nominally require \$20-25K (e.g., \$5K for 5 years). The endowment could be funded through fundraising or individual gifts. The College is in the final stages of such an endowment for the Undergraduate Student Service and Leadership Award funded by a generous individual gift from Pat Beecher Loftus (as announced at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner).
    - **Action: The Board took an action to revisit sustainability of the awards during the coming year in keeping with the high priority of the undergraduate awards.**

- **Department and Program Update** (Jack Brenizer)

- Jack Brenizer has stepped down as Nuclear Engineering Program Chair after over 11 years in that position. During that time, the program has experienced unprecedented low enrollment (6 graduates in 1997) to the present unprecedented large enrollment (90 graduates this year and approximately 120 expected next year). Jack is taking a sabbatical at Oak Ridge starting in the fall, and is looking forward to focusing on his teaching, research, and new responsibilities on the ANS National Board of Directors.
- Student Enrollment - In the fall 2009 semester, there are Nuclear Engineering 47 graduate students on campus, with 24 Masters and 23 PhD candidates. There are 164 undergraduate students in the program with 92 juniors. It is expected that there will be 110 to 130 juniors in the program in the fall of 2010. There are 135 students participating in the distance learning program, many from Naval Reactors, and the demand is challenging the teaching resources. In terms of freshman enrollment, there are usually approximately 25 Nuclear Engineering students. Currently, there are 48 freshmen that have expressed interest in the program.
- With the increase in student population, there is a need for additional faculty members. A new nuclear engineering faculty member with a specialty in radiation sources will be joining the department this summer.
- For incoming engineering freshmen to Penn State, the number one degree desired is Mechanical Engineering. There are presently approximately 1100 MNE students total enrolled in the department.
- Penn State sent approximately 25 people to the ANS Student Conference this year hosted by the University of Michigan, although only 4 of these students presented papers. However, 2 of these 4 students won presentation awards.
- The Alpha Nu Sigma chapter has become active again this year, with 27 new members.
- A priority item for students is mentoring, based on the PSNES survey taken earlier this year.
- The department continues to need quality presenters for the weekly seminars. The seminars are held weekly during the fall and spring semesters on Thursday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 PM, and are attended by approximately 100 students. The department does not pay travel or living costs for these speakers. Jim Tusar confirmed he had presented a Nuc E 590 seminar during this past year.  
**Action: PSNES Board members to consider potential opportunities for speakers at the weekly Nuclear Engineering department seminars.**
- Keeping in Touch –There are already tools in place to help students stay connected, but acknowledged that many do not. ANGEL, for example, is only active approximately 3-6 months after the student graduates (typically the amount of time that their Penn State account remains active). **Action: PSNES to give consideration to ways to improve alumni staying connected with students and the department.**
- Jack acknowledged the generous \$2M grant made to the MNE Department for Nuclear Engineering by Toshiba-Westinghouse. The grant will fund 7 Toshiba/Westinghouse student fellowships, support the revamping and update of the design courses through the efforts of 6 to 8 engineers each spring, greatly expand the Nuc E electives offered by the department, and other activities.

- **RSEC News** (Jack Brenizer for Kenan Ünlü)

- Jack provided the following summary highlights:
  1. The focus of the RSEC has been on making several facility improvements, including a recently completed \$2M security upgrade of the perimeter fence and other assets.
  2. Penn State learned in February that we were unsuccessful in an application for a NIST \$6.5M Construction Grant for expansion of the RSEC facilities. Both the Dean of the College of Engineering and the Vice President for Research say that Penn State plans to resubmit the application for this grant next year based on the merit of the project.
  3. License renewal was received in November 2009. This achievement was cited in the March 2010 Nuclear News (article begins on page 50).
  4. There will be a tour of the RSEC and reactor as part of today's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration events.

- **New Recognition Initiatives – New Proposals (All)**
  - Joe Sholtis asked if the group would consider putting together a time capsule with contents relevant to Nuc E, with the possible objective of opening it 50 years from now on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program. Pat Loftus asked Joe to prepare a short write-up that could be discussed at the September 23 meeting. Don Lenze and Jennifer Theiss said they would check on existing programs or policies at the College or University level that could impact the viability of a time capsule, and suggested Joe talk to them before preparing his write-up.
  
- **Alumni Outreach (All)**
  - The College of Engineering has a Facebook page. PSNES is encouraged to contribute content (articles, photos, publicity for events, etc.) to this page. This can be done without creating a Facebook identity and page for PSNES.
  - Jennifer Theiss reminded the group that Penn State Engineering Alumni Society (PSEAS) has established an infrastructure to facilitate sharing information and best practices among various programs. PSEAS activities include a monthly conference call, as well as the opportunity for each program to establish an Affiliate Program Group (APG), which would fall under the umbrella of a newly established APG Resource Committee. Pat Loftus and Rick Etling reported that they have been sharing the responsibility of representing PSNES. Pat and Rick suggested that representing PSNES in these forums would be easier if the group's representatives were extended beyond the PSNES officers. Jeff Jeffries and Jim Stavely agreed to share our support responsibilities. In addition, Joe Sholtis offered to share his recent University of New Mexico experience having similar organizations with the PSEAS.
  - Note. During a break in the PSNES Board meeting, there was an informal discussion to the effect that PSNES activities and sharing PSNES best practices with the PSEAS APGs is supported by alumni volunteers and that as a result, PSNES does not commit any specific level of support to PSES or its activities such as committee meetings and other initiatives. ACTION: Don Lenze - help clarify the distinction between sharing of APG best practices and obligations of PSNES to PSES.
  
- **Upcoming Events & Meetings**
  - September 23, 2010 – PSNES Quarterly Meeting (via teleconference) (proposed date)
  - November 11, 2010 – PSNES Quarterly Meeting (via teleconference) (proposed date) – note that the ANS winter meeting is in Las Vegas, which would not be ideal for a face-to-face PSNES meeting. There was some discussion about November 11 being the last day (Thursday) of the meeting and that some people attending the meeting may not be able to participate in the phone call.
  
- **2010-2011 PSNES Priorities and Focus Areas**
  - PSNES Undergraduate Student Awards
  - Nuclear Engineering Student Mentoring Program
  - Alumni Outreach
  
- Recognition of Traci Shimmel
  - The Board and Program Chair recognized Traci Shimmel for her outstanding support of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration events and other PSNES activities and events.

**Adjourn - at approximately 12:05.**

**Attachment 1**  
**MINUTES OF PSNES QUARTERLY MEETING (Telecon)**  
**February 15, 2010**

**11:30 Welcome and Member Roll Call** – Pat Loftus called the meeting to order and confirmed a quorum to conduct business. Dial-In number provided by Jim Tusar. (Thank you!)

**Board Participants:**

Pat Loftus – President  
 Rick Etling – VP/President Elect  
 Dr. Kenan Ünlü – RSEC Director, Faculty Member  
 Jack Brenizer – Program Chair

**PSNES Directors:**

Doug Wood  
 Jim Tusar  
 Jim Stavely  
 Ed Klevans  
 Jeff Jeffries  
 Mark Lloyd – Acting Secretary for 2/16/10  
 Richard Martin  
 Jim Stover

**PSNES Members:**

Joe Sholtis

**Other:**

Don Lenze – College of Engineering  
 Frank Nedwidek – ANS Student Chapter President  
 Emily Stumbris – ANS Student Chapter VP  
 Traci Shimmel

**Board Proxy Votes (designated via e-mail to PSNES President):**

None

**Old Business**

- **Meeting Minutes Approval** - The November 16, 2009 Meeting Minutes were approved as written. (See Attachment 1)

**PSNES Financial Report**

Cost Center	Cumulative Total to Date	Expenditures	Current Balance
PSNES General Account	\$4400	\$1029.84	\$3370.16
PSNES Student Awards	\$6050	\$4000	\$2050

- The main expenditures from the general account are one-time expenses (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banner, Board approved recognition) and annual expenses including blue-white tailgate and the refreshments provided at the annual PSNES meeting (~ \$333 per year).
- There are sufficient funds to run the student awards for one more year. Additional funds will be needed to sustain the awards beyond the 2010-2011 Academic Year
- It is possible to allocate funding from the PSNES general account to the student Awards account if the Board recommends this.
- Joe Sholtis recommends that a sub-group be formed to discuss funding options to sustain the Undergraduate Student Awards. **ACTION for Pat Loftus, Rick Etling, Don Lenze and Jack Brenizer to discuss this topic offline and bring back to the Board for additional discussion.**

## Nuclear Engineering 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Update and PSNES Support - Jack Brenizer/Don Lenze

Jack reviewed the activities that have been conducted to date in support of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, including:

- The first L. E. Hochreiter MNE Distinguished Lecture Series was held in September 2009 with Dr. Aris Candris, President and CEO Westinghouse Electric Co. as the speaker
- The 2009 Nuclear Energy Symposium was held at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center on October 15-16, 2009, lead by Dr. Arthur Motta.
- The annual Nuclear Engineering Program/PSNES Reception was held on November 16, 2009 from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM in the Palladian Ballroom at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington DC (site of the ANS Winter Meeting).
- The second speaker in the L. E. Hochreiter MNE Distinguished Lecture Series was Mr. Alan Hanson, who is the Executive Vice President, Technologies and Used Fuel Management of AREVA. This lecture was held on January 21, 2010 at Penn State.
- The last major event in the year-long celebration is the Nuclear Engineering Alumni & Friends Reception and Dinner at the Nittany Lion Inn on April 26, 2010. This event will include a dinner and an after dinner speaker.
  - There was an action from the November 2009 meeting to determine if blocks of rooms can be reserved for this event given that the President's Campaign on-campus activities are currently scheduled for Blue-White Weekend which ends on April 25, 2010. Alumni should contact the Nittany Lion Inn directly.
  - For the Dinner and Reception, the Nittany Lion Inn will be able to accommodate 300 individuals. If the response is greater, alternative arrangements would need to be considered.
  - Traci Shimmel reported that the registration for this event will be similar to the MNE Senior Recognition Banquet. There will be tours, etc. that individuals can register for via this web site. We are still awaiting the web site to be ready such that the URL can be included in the invitation letter that will be sent to PSNES members and department alumni. It is expected that the web site will be ready by the end of February. In general, students will not be invited to attend this event. The web site will include a link to sponsor students for alumni that are either attending the event or for those that cannot attend.
  - Per the action from the November 2009 meeting, Don Lenze has drafted an Ambassador letter. The letter requires a few more edits, including insertion of the registration URL into the letter, before it can be issued. It is the hope of PSNES that we will use our network of contacts (friends, co-workers, classmates, etc.) and that they will, in turn, forward the information and encourage attendance at this event.
  - **Action: PSNES to communicate the information and use network of contacts to get the information out.** Jack reminded the group that a "save the date" reminder had previously been sent out to alumni.
- The PSNES 2010 Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, April 26, 2010 from 10 AM-12 PM at Penn State. Dial-In access will also be provided. Following the meeting on 4/26, the Program is tentatively planning a lunch-time alumni networking event to be funded by those attending. The Program will also have other activities in the afternoon, including tours of campus and the RSEC. The MNE area in Reber Building will have posters displayed that show current research projects within Nuclear Engineering.
- The reception will begin at 5 PM with the dinner to follow. Location for the event is at the Nittany Lion Inn.
- We are still looking for pictures or other memoirs of our time at Penn State in support of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. Dr. Catchens is working with Victoria Courier to publish a pamphlet containing this information. To support publication of the pamphlet, information needs to be provided by the end of February, although contributions could still be made after the deadline. The letter from PSU will contain a paragraph on how to contribute photographs or memories online.

### ANS Update – Frank Nedwidek and Emily Stumbris

- The ANS Student Conference will be held at the University of Michigan from April 8-11. Twenty ANS members are going, with 6-7 presentations being made.
- Outreach - ANS will host the Boy Scouts at the RSEC on March 20 for a tour and various activities. Participation by the Boy Scouts in this event will allow them to achieve their Nuclear Merit Badge.
- Outreach – a plant tour of the PSEG Salem and Hope Creek reactors is being planned.
- The Penn State Student Chapter of ANS is looking to bring back Alpha Nu Sigma to Penn State. This honors program has been on hiatus at Penn State for the past few years. Emily and Frank will serve as the interim President and Vice President respectively until officers can be formally elected.
- Resume Reviews – this is an on-going need which aligns with PSNES core mission. Alumni who have interest should note their interest on ANGEL. **Action: Board to consider using ANGEL for resume reviews.**

### Potential New Initiative – PSU Nuclear Engineering Living Memorial Proposal

Rich Martin provided the following update on the potential PSU Nuclear Engineering Living Memorial Proposal:

- Rich and Jack have contacted the university Department of Communications to see if we could get someone to help us with storyboarding, potentially shooting some video and providing scripting or voiceover support for us. To date, they have been unresponsive to our requests for support. Apparently we have not connected with the right individual at the Department of Communications and we will try to be persistent.
- **Action will remain open.** The Board will carry the action for one more meeting and then decide at the April 2010 meeting to either move forward with the initiative or put it on hold.

### Nuclear Engineering Fact Sheets (Rich Martin, Jim Stover, Mark Lloyd, Joe Sholtis, Pat Loftus)

- Rich and Mark had the action to send the draft Nuclear Engineering Fact Sheet and individual/company contact information to the Board for final action. This action was completed and that Board agreed to close the action. Jack Brenizer agreed that the Nuclear Engineering Fact Sheets provided a good base of reference and could be used in response to requests or inquiries that the department receives for information from students or from the public.
- The Board discussed if this information should be posted on the department web site or elsewhere. There is a fine line between what is posted on the department site versus what would be placed on ANGEL. The recommendation from the Program was that the Fact Sheet be posted on ANGEL.
- Jack appreciates that he now has an on-call list of names that he can use to direct questions to. (Thank you to Jim Stavely, Jim Tusar, Melissa Hunter, Joe Sholtis and Dick Gill!) **Action: If there are other Board members that would like to have their names added to the list, please indicate your interest via email to Jack Brenizer, Traci Shimmel and Pat Loftus.**
- **Action for Traci Shimmel / Jack Brenizer to confirm that they have the information needed to register Melissa Hunter and Joe Sholtis on ANGEL.**

### Alumni Outreach – Facebook

- As a means of strengthening connections with the Alumni base, the Board considered creation of a PSNES Facebook page. The Program indicated that our Alumni volunteers would need to manage a PSNES Facebook page ourselves and the overhead costs are too high to commit to doing this. It was also discussed that Facebook is blocked by many company servers.
- The College of Engineering (COE) maintains a Facebook page. PSNES has decided to submit articles, information, etc. for consideration by the College of Engineering to be posted on the COE Facebook page versus creating our own PSNES Facebook page.

### Nuclear Engineering Student Mentoring Program and ANGEL Pilot

- Some Board members indicated that they were unfamiliar with ANGEL or found it difficult to navigate within the system. Jack Brenizer recommended another tutorial be provided or a step-by-step document be created for ANGEL, if necessary. It was also suggested that students could help Board members upload information or help us use the site if it is needed.
- **There is still a need for Board members and alumni to upload their information to ANGEL. Action: Upload information, including a picture to the ANGEL site. This action will be carried forward.** There is an open item for how to handle non-Board alumni who want to be mentors, but do not have access to the ANGEL site. Jack and Traci could add these individuals to ANGEL.



- In terms of mentoring, it is possible that we can use the time after the April Board meeting and before the dinner to meet with prospective mentee.
- It was reinforced by Rick Etling that the mentor program is one of the top priority and focus items for the Board in 2009-2010.
- **Action for Board members to submit interest in being a mentor to Pat Loftus and Rick Etling with copy to Doug Wood and Mark Lloyd.**

## New Business

- **RSEC News – Kenan Ünlü**

- The RSEC includes the following facilities: 1) Breazeale Nuclear Reactor, Gamma Irradiation Facilities, Hot Cells, Radiation Detection and Measurement Facilities, Neutron Beam Lab, Radio-Nuclear Application Lab, Angular Correlation Lab, Low-Pressure Integrated Test Facility and support Facilities.
- Dr. Ünlü provided an update. To summarize:
  5. The focus of the RSEC has been on making several facility improvements. A security upgrade was recently completed and is functioning well. Other upgrades are ongoing and should be complete in time for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in April.
  6. We applied for a NIST Construction Grant for expansion of the RSEC facilities. The total grant application is for \$6.5M. The State of Pennsylvania provided a \$1.5M match. The result of this application was announced in February 2010 and Penn State was not successful in winning this grant money. Both the Dean of the College of Engineering and the Vice President for research likes this RSEC project very much and we will therefore resubmit our application for this grant next year.
  7. License renewal was received in November 2009. This achievement was cited in the March 2010 Nuclear News (article begins on page 50).
  8. All other RSEC facilities are functioning well.

- **Department and Program Update – Jack Brenizer**

- Student Enrollment - In the fall 2009 semester, there are Nuclear Engineering 47 graduate students on campus, with 24 Masters and 23 PhD candidates. There are 164 undergraduate students in the program with 92 juniors and 55 seniors. It is expected that the program will award 90 Bachelor's degrees. There are ~ 135 students enrolled in the distance learning program with ~70 students participating in the MEng degree program. In terms of freshman enrollment, there are usually approximately 25 Nuclear Engineering students. Currently, there are 48 freshmen that have expressed interest in the program. 120 juniors are expected for next year.
- With the increase in student population, there is a need for additional faculty members. Several faculty candidates have been considered and the top candidate for a position has been identified but not yet landed.
- The department is doing well with grants.
- For incoming freshman to Penn State, the number one degree desired is Mechanical Engineering.
- A priority item for PSNES is student mentoring.
- The Program is in need of presenters for the weekly seminars. The seminars are held weekly during the Fall and Spring semesters on Thursday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 PM, with a reception beginning at 3:30 PM. Approximately 100 students attend these seminars. The Program will pay for a lunch and/or dinner for speakers, but cannot pay travel or living costs. **Action: PSNES to consider an outreach initiative to identify potential opportunities for speakers at the weekly Nuclear Engineering seminars.**
- Keeping in Touch – It was noted that many students lose touch with the university in the first 7-10 years following graduation before they want to reconnect. The University of New Mexico implemented a contact card program to help graduates stay connected with the university. Jack Brenizer noted that there are already tools in place to help students stay connected, but acknowledged that many do not. ANGEL, for example, is only active approximately 3-6 months after the student graduates (typically the amount of time that their Penn State account remains active). **Action for PSNES to give consideration to ways to improve staying connected with young nuclear professionals.**

- **Recognition Initiatives**

- Volunteer Awards – There is a March 1 due date for nominations for Alumni Volunteer Awards. PSNES can submit an activity or program for consideration as an affiliate group. Jack Brenizer recommended that PSNES consider a nomination if we can do it within the timeframe allowed. Jim Tusar recommended that PSNES student awards program be nominated. The submission process is online and straightforward. There was some discussion considering the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration activities as a potential for nomination, but these activities have been mostly run by the program and not by PSNES.
- It was the consensus of the Board to nominate the Undergraduate Student Awards program.  
**Action for Jim Tusar and Ed Klevans to draft the award nomination and review it with Pat Loftus and Rick Etling prior to submittal on March 1st.**

- **PSNES Secretary/Treasurer Position**

- Bill Naughton has resigned from the PSNES Board. Bill's contribution both as a Board Member and Officer were recognized. The Board discussed how to best fill the role of Secretary/Treasurer.
- Articles IV & V of the PSNES Constitution describes what happens when a Board member / Officer resigns their position. In consideration of the Constitution and past practice, options for filling the role considered by the Board included: (1) leaving the office position vacant until the next election and seek volunteers from the Board prior to each meeting to take meeting minutes; (2) appoint an Acting Secretary/Treasurer to fill the remaining term and appoint a new Board Member to fill the remainder of the term for this individual; (3) appoint an Acting Secretary/ Treasurer to fill the remaining term and leave the Board Member's seat vacant; (4) call a special election.
- Mark Lloyd is the acting Secretary for the February 2010 meeting with Doug Wood support and Doug will be the acting Secretary for the April 2010 meeting.
- In general, the PSNES Board supports someone filling the position on an interim basis until the next election in Spring 2011. Mark Lloyd expressed a willingness to fulfill this role on an interim basis.
- **Action: This subject will be discussed at the April 2010 meeting with candidates and volunteers to be considered.**
- The Board provided thoughts on how to fill the Board position left vacant by Bill Naughton's resignation. Consideration was given to others that had previously campaigned for a position on the Board, including Ron Brown and Joe Sholtis. Jack Brenizer thought that the Board would function well whether or not we backfilled Bill's position.
- **Action: Joe Sholtis to let Pat Loftus know privately if he is interested in the open position. Pat Loftus will contact Ron Brown separately. This subject will be discussed at the April 2010 meeting.**

### Upcoming Events & Meetings

- April 26, 2010 – PSNES Annual Meeting @ PSU (including dial-in access)
- April 26, 2010 – Nuclear Engineering Alumni & Friends Dinner @ The Nittany Lion Inn @ PSU
- September 23, 2010 – PSNES Quarterly Meeting (via teleconference) (proposed date)
- November 11, 2010 – PSNES Quarterly Meeting (via teleconference) (proposed date) – note that the ANS winter meeting is at a west coast location, which would not be ideal for the PSNES meeting.
- We will review the overall schedule of events at the Annual Meeting in April.

**Adjourn at approximately 13:05.**