

## **PENN STATE NUCLEAR ENGINEERING SOCIETY**

### **TELECONFERENCE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 8, 2011**

#### **Participants:**

##### **PSNES Officers & Board Participants**

Rick Etling – President  
Pat Loftus – Former President  
Ron Brown – Secretary Treasurer  
Arthur Motta – Ex-Officio NE Program Chair (with vote)

##### **PSNES Directors**

Ed Klevans  
Joe Sholtis  
Jim Tusar  
Rachel Heath  
Dick Gill

##### **Other**

Karen Thole – Department Chair, Mechanical & Nuclear Engineering Dept.  
Don Lenze – Associate Director of Development, College of Engineering, PSU  
Tory Fryer – Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering  
Matt Hargrove – ANS Student Chapter  
Don Moll

#### **OPENING**

Rick Etling called the meeting to order. Quorum to conduct business was confirmed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The minutes from the Spring meeting were approved and will be posted on the PSNES website (add site URL).

Tory Fryer reported that the PSNES General Fund had a balance of \$4427.26 and that the PSNES Awards Fund had a balance of \$3200.00. Tory noted that the student award (\$1000) for this year had not been paid. When paid, this will leave a balance of \$2200 in the PSNES Awards Fund account.

### **Student Mentoring and Networking Feedback:**

The mentoring program was announced in NucE 310 to about 100 students.

One student found a mentor through a family friend.

Jim Tusar has been contacted by two students.

It was noted that at the University of New Mexico, the best mechanism for the mentoring program is by word of mouth from participating students.

It was further noted that some interest is typically shown around graduation time, in connection with a job hunt. However, this is typically too late for an effective mentoring relationship.

Dr. Thole stated that PSMES mentoring is targeted over the summer. Matt Hargrove (ANS Student representative, B.S. NucE grad and current graduate student) agreed that it is a good idea to contact students over the summer and that this should be followed by a program announcement.

The Board agreed a self assessment including a student survey would be appropriate at the end of the FY11-12 academic year to assess progress and identify improvements.

### **Time Capsule**

Dr. Klevans has drafted a letter to alumni/a/faculty soliciting time capsule items and identification of items. Mrs. Hochreiter has agreed to participate. An example was given of press coverage during the Fukushima incident.

Dr. Klevans will speak to Don Lenze regarding the time capsule. Specifically, there is a development fund for activities such as the time capsule, and funds may be available. The pedestal and plaque would be in the \$500 - \$3000 range, with an intermediate price of \$1500 be the target. A two cubic foot time capsule is envisioned.

Content is an over-riding issue. Dr. Klevans will be contacting Alumni, Faculty, and Students to gather potential content,, among other things, pictures of students in the NucE lab classes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Current PSU Circumstances**

Dr. Thole reports that while the circumstances in view of the scandal at Penn State are very severe, that the campus and the MNE Department are dealing with these events.

Dr. Thole wants us to become ambassadors for the MNE program and let the world know that the programs, the students and the faculty are still great. Dr. Thole reports that students haven't lost job offers or internship offers due the circumstances and that career fairs are still strong. The industry continues to support the MNE program.

Each year the number of PSU applications goes up, and this year the number went up by 3.4 percent. This number is important for Moody's ratings of the college. The question of whether or not these events may affect how many acceptees choose to go to Penn State is still open.

### **Departmental Update**

Dr. Motta states there are ~120 students declaring Nuclear Engineering as a major this year, but further notes that the Fukushima accident occurred after the majors were declared. PSU graduated over 10% of the country's NucE undergraduates last year.

Dr. Motta stated Assistant professor Max Fratoni has joined the nuclear engineering program in the MNE department. His specialty is reactor physics and the nuclear fuel cycle.

Dr. Thole added that Amanda Johnsen has joined Penn State as a research scientist working with Kenan Unlu and Prof. Bob Edwards is retiring.

Students will be attending the ANS conference in Las Vegas.

There was further discussion regarding how to get alumni/ae involved. Jim Stavely is our contact with the Penn State Engineering Alumni Society (PSEAS) and will see if they have any best practices which we can adapt. Likewise, Rick Etling will check with the EE group for best practices.

### **Student Awards:**

Keegan Behm is receiving the PSNES Leadership and Service Award. Keegan has a GPA of 3.86.

Adam Crimboli is receiving the John J. Brennan Excellence in Nuclear Engineering Award. Adam has a GPA of 4.0.

Jim Tusar (PSNES Award Committee Chair) reports that some complications in the voting process led to some "lessons learned".

1. The Awards Committee should have an odd number of participants, with alternate participants.

2. Any committee member who writes a recommendation is recused from participation.
3. We should have pre-established rules with respect to splitting awards and tie breaking.
4. We should have clearly established eligibility requirements for the awards.

### **White House Champion of Change**

Dr. Thole will receive the White House Champion of Change award at the White House on December 9, 2011.

### **Alumni/ae Outreach Program**

New ideas should be sought in this regard.

There will be some discussions with the ME and EE groups.

Joe Sholtis will email some ideas to Rick Etling.

Rachel Heath will help with social media, including potential use of Facebook.

The PSU alumni/ae website allows registered members to do a search on various parameters, including major. Email addresses are typically provided as part of the search. An email list could be compiled for NucE majors.

### **PSNES Tenth Anniversary**

The PSNES was officially recognized in early 2002 after preliminary conversations in November 2001. Need to verify the timing of the formal start of PSNES.

It was suggested that we combine a tenth anniversary celebration for PSNES with the time capsule ceremony.

We will form a committee to get activities organized, which may include a tailgate.

### **Recognition of Pat Loftus' Service as PSNES President**

Pat Loftus' service as PSNES was recognized. It was suggested that there be formal recognition at the Spring PSNES meeting.

### **Passing of Dr. Richard Martin**

A contribution in memory of Dr. Richard Martin was suggested. It was subsequently decided that PSNES would donate \$250 to the charity chosen by Dr. Martin's family, Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, Dr. Richard D. Martin Memorial Fund. It was noted that these tragic circumstances warrant such an increased amount. The Board Approved the Memorium by authorizing disbursement from the PSNES General Account.

It was suggested that we announce this in the MNE news/website in order to encourage others to contribute personally.

### **Upcoming Events**

1. Larry Hochreiter Distinguished Lecture Series. Board members are invited to pass along suggestions for other lectures to Dr. Motta.
2. February 6, 2012 – Sr. Recognition Banquet.
3. Spring PSNES Board Meeting. Rick Etling proposes retaining the Blue/White weekend with a Board Meeting on Saturday morning, April 21<sup>st</sup>.
4. The suggestion was made for a February working committee meeting.

### **Bequest to Nuclear Engineering Department**

Don Lenze and Joe Sholtis report that an alumni/a is planning to establish a bequest to the Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Department. Rick Etling and Susan Stewart (PSMES) wrote letters in the MNE News acknowledging the bequest. These funds will be used to create a stream of income. Don Lenze reports that this bequest may involve a "matching" element so that other alumni/ae can contribute without creating their own fund.

### **Meeting was Called to a Close**