

PENN STATE NUCLEAR ENGINEERING SOCIETY
TELEPHONIC MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 19, 2012

Participants:

PSNES Officers & Board Participants

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

PSNES Directors

Joe Sholtis
Jim Tusar
Doug Wood
James Stover

Other

Karen Thole – Head of the Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Department
Don Lenze – Associate Director of Development, College of Engineering, PSU
Tory Fryer – Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering
Amanda Majcher – ANS Student Chapter
Michael Pantano
Thomas Richard
Hilary Neal

OPENING

Rick Etling called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM.

OLD BUSINESS

The minutes from the previous business meeting of April 21, 2012 were approved.

Financial Report:

Tory Fryer reported that the account balance for the PSNES General Fund Account Balance is \$2897.26, and that this amount takes into account the \$300 payment for the ANS Student Conference Trip. She further reported that the PSNES Awards Fund Account Balance is \$200.00.

Student ANS Trip:

Amanda Majcher reported on the ANS Student Conference Trip. Amanda first thanked PSNES for the financial support. Amanda reported that she met with Joe Sholtis during the trip and that she attended the Women's Professional ANS Group. She wants to form a similar group at PSU. The ANS gave a Certificate of Distinction to the PSU Student Group.

Rick Etling commented that the PSNES financial support was money well spent.

MIT is hosting the 2013 Student Conference. PSU might bid to host the 2014 conference. The last ANS Student Conference at PSU was in 2002. There was some discussion of possible venues in State College. It was suggested that a good date for this might be in April. Joe Sholtis asked if PSNES could do anything to help.

Time Capsule

Joe Sholtis reported that the Time Capsule has arrived at PSU. Arthur Motta reported that a flyer has been distributed soliciting ideas for content.

Arthur Motta, Joe Sholtis, Candace Davidson and Catherine Perego will select items in January.

It was suggested that a logo for the exterior of the time capsule should be selected.

Student Networking & Mentoring Program Feedback

It was reported that 75 percent of the students would respond that they were interested in such programs but that only 10 percent actually participated. There have been very few recent mentoring requests.

Jim Tusar reported that two students had contacted him.

It was stated that serious questions should be asked about what we should do. Do we need to regroup? Should we poll the faculty advisers?

Tory Fryer reported that she is re-doing the website. She expects to launch a beta site over the December holiday and that she would send out a link to the Board for feedback.

Articles for the MNE magazine are requested.

The question is how do we get more recent grads interested in the mentoring program and in PSNES in general? A Facebook page was suggested. It was noted that the Mechanical Engineering Department has a Facebook page, but it is not clear if it serves as a membership tool. Maybe the new crop of recent grads to the PSNES Board will bring social networking savvy.

NEW BUSINESS

Update from Penn State Engineering Societies

The Penn State Engineering Society had its first annual tailgate. The Alumni council has lots of stuff going on to emphasize the positive aspects of Penn State.

Other engineering societies have instituted an early career award to engineering graduates on the level of \$250 to \$500. Don Lenze stated that this could be structured so that the recent graduate is honored and named at an awards banquet at PSU and that money could be given to an emerging student leader in the name of the recipient of the early career award.

It was resolved that PSNES should work up a similar grant application for the Nuclear Engineering Department.

Program and Faculty Update

Dr. Thole reported that NucE enrollments are stable – no exponential gains, but no significant drops. PSU graduated 83 NucE grads last year, which is a record number. PSU still grants about thirteen percent of all nuclear engineering degrees in the U.S. About 30 percent of the BSME grads go to graduate school while about 15-20 of the BSNUcE grads go to graduate school. This may decline as the economy improves.

No additional faculty is being hired. But that PSU applied for a start-up package with the NRC, and may require additional personnel for this project.

PSNES Awards Program

The eligibility standards are to be revised/clarified in that a candidate for the awards must anticipate receiving a B.S. in Nuclear Engineering from Penn State in the academic year of the award.

The decision of the award recipients will be made in early October. This was voted on and approved by the Board. Alex Punzi is expected to receive the academic award, but

there are currently no nominations for the service and leadership award. Dr. Motta has received nominations for 2 new candidates that will be reviewed by the Board in January.

It was further noted that the PSNES awards will not be fully endowed until the 2014-2015 academic year and that further funds are expected to be required in the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 academic years. In view of this, the Board voted and approved a transfer of \$500 from the general fund to the awards fund. It was further noted that PSNES has to keep sufficient funds in the general fund for the Tenth Anniversary celebration.

Outstanding Alumni Award

Jim Tusar will be receiving the Nuclear Engineering Outstanding Alumni Award from PSU.

PSNES Officer and Board Elections

Jim Stavely will send out a proposed election slate on or about November 30, 2012. It was subsequently confirmed that it would be a full election slate has been established and posted to the Website.

PSNES Tenth Anniversary Celebration

In view of the original PSNES meeting being held in April 2003, there will be a Tenth Anniversary Celebration in April 2013. This should be tied in with the dedication of the time capsule, and maybe a celebratory luncheon.

Rick Etling suggested that we avoid the Blue and White weekend, so that hotels will be more plentiful and less expensive. The Blue and White weekend is expected to be April 20, 21, 2013. The subsequent weekend might also be less desirable in that it is the last Saturday of the semester. The weekend dates of April 13, 14 were tentatively suggested.

Volunteers are sought for the planning of this celebration. We will have an informal telecon about February 2013 to discuss further.

Recognition

The Board recognized and thanked Tory for the outstanding support she provided to PSNES and wished her success in her new assignment at Smeal School of Business.

Meeting was called to an end at 1 PM.