

## **PENN STATE NUCLEAR ENGINEERING SOCIETY**

### **MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 25, 2013 – PSNES Teleconference Meeting**

#### **Participants:**

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

Jim Stavely – President  
Rick Etling – Past President  
Tom Richard – Secretary / Treasurer  
Catherine Perego – ANS Student Section President

##### **PSNES Directors**

Joe Sholtis  
Eric Beaumont  
Doug Wood  
John Atchison  
Michael Pantano  
Duane Karchner

#### **OPENING**

Jim Stavely began the meeting at 2:00 pm.

The minutes from the previous business meeting of April 13, 2013, are approved.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Nuclear Engineering Student Networking & Mentoring Program Feedback:**

Prof. Motta sent out a survey to all of the mentors regarding the level of participation from the students. There were a handful of students that reached out towards the beginning of the semester, but no participation continued. There is also one long-term mentee that has continued interaction, but this student had already been active previously.

Catherine Perego discussed and presented the mentoring program at the ANS Student Meeting. The students did not have many questions about the program.

It was acknowledged that the Junior-level students are not thinking about the industry too much. Joe Sholtis believes the program needs to be student-driven, since he has had experience with a mentor-driven program that was not successful. The board agreed that a student-driven program is preferred, which is also an industry best practice for mentorship programs.

The best way to promote the mentorship program is by word of mouth and student-to-student. Catherine Perego added that a student presented information about the mentorship program at the last ANS Student Meeting. The next ANS Student Meeting is Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Student Meetings are usually the first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. The turnout is great, with approximately 75-100 students attending the meetings. It was suggested that a flyer could be sent out about the program to the students and faculty.

#### **ANS Student Conference:**

Jim Stavely asked if everyone has seen the sponsorship package for that was sent out.

**Jim Stavely will send out the sponsorship package to the board.** Sponsorship is one of the biggest things that can support the conference. Depending on the giving-level, you can get a career booth and keynote speaker. Panels and judges are needed for Friday and Saturday. There will be approximately 150 student presentations. There will be 6 different panels. Judges are needed Friday afternoon, and Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm. (Website: [meetings.ans.org/student2014](http://meetings.ans.org/student2014)).

Rick Etling noted that the Nuclear Power Advisory Board is meeting on Friday from 8:30 am to 2 pm.

**Jim Stavely will set-up a conference call approximately 2 weeks before the PSNES Annual Meeting.** Saturday, during the ANS Student Conference, we will have a face-to-face meeting for PSNES during lunch break.

There will be 6 different panels for the Student Conference: SMR technologies, innovation in current power plants, fusion, medical isotope production, impact of accidents on industry, and waste management. The last two panels are on Saturday morning. Penn State Engineering Alumni Society (PSEAS) has a \$500 grant for an early career award, and this could be moved to the ANS Student Conference. Jim Stavely wants to set-up a mechanism for smaller/individual amounts. Rick Etling suggested we could do it through the Nuclear Engineering department. Jim Stavely will talk to Prof. Motta about this.

The Student Conference will be in Reber and Hammond. Joe Sholtis asked if the conference would be videotaped or documented. Catherine Perego said no videotaping, but papers will be recorded online.

Eric Beaumont has contacted numerous companies about sponsorship and support for the ANS Student Conference.

#### **Awards and Budget:**

In January, we will re-visit the awards and budget. Jim Stavely will touch base with Pat Loftus on the PSNES Leadership & Service Award.

**Outreach and Social Media:**

A discussion about social media was started. Joe Sholtis emphasized that social media is just one facet of outreach.

If the PSNES website is not advertised, people will probably not get on it. Joe Sholtis said that he receives weekly emails from the University of New Mexico, which is a useful mechanism. An individual at UNM's College of Engineering sends the emails.

The PSNES LinkedIn group was started and operated by Hilary Neal. There are approximately 77 members of the PSNES LinkedIn group currently. The LinkedIn group generates emails that are sent whenever statuses or posts are made, which helps facilitate communication.

It was suggested that the PSU directory could be used to send out invitations to the PSNES group. The mailing list for PSNES is over 300 people. Catherine Perego discussed the PSNES LinkedIn group at the ANS Student Meeting.

**Time Capsule:**

Jim Stavely started a discussion about the Time Capsule and the plan regarding its relationship to the ANS Student Conference and Student Lounge. Rick Etling said that the Time Capsule will be placed in the Student Lounge that is being built in the Reber Building. The Student Lounge is at least 1 or 2 years away from being built. Karen Thole can be contacted for more information about the Student Lounge.

Joe Sholtis said that the Time Capsule is easily sealable and un-sealable. It was suggested that a celebration could be held at the ANS Student Conference for the Time Capsule, and material can be further accumulated as it happens. Then, when the Student Lounge is completed, the Time Capsule could be formally dedicated. It was noted that the ANS Student Chapter could be the Champion to lead the Time Capsule project. However, with the ANS Student Conference coming up in April, it was stated that the students are currently focused on the Conference. It was also suggested that a new decal (e.g., Penn State Engineering decal) is needed for the Time Capsule.

**NEW BUSINESS****NucE Department:**

Rachel Baker is performing the marketing role (replacing Tory) for NucE.

**Leadership:**

Jim Stavely started a discussion challenging PSNES members to pick a passion and lead. For example, Hilary Neal took the Social Media lead and ran with it. Jim asked the members present at the meeting if anyone wanted to pick an area and lead.

Eric Beaumont wants to spearhead the ANS Student Conference. He spoke earlier about the companies he contacted to seek further support for the ANS Student Conference.

Joe Sholtis would like to get involved with the PSNES website. Rachel Baker does the PSNES website updates. Jim will send Joe contact info for Rachel.

Rick Etling recommends choosing 3 priorities to focus on. The 3 priorities from the last year or two were outreach, mentoring, and awards.

The ANS Student Conference is a priority, along with continuing outreach and mentoring. However, the mentoring was started as a priority 3 years ago, and it has not gained as much traction as hoped. The board does not support formally ending the mentoring program, but there was some discussion to this effect.

**Fund-raising:**

Jim Stavelly said PSEAS runs a silent auction at the tailgate. It was asked if anyone close to campus could do a similar type of fund-raising event. Joe Sholtis said he thought the Time Capsule could be a project where you could donate items, but also funds – which would be tied to the Student Lounge.

**ROUNDTABLE**

John Atchison is concerned about possible termination of the mentoring program.

It was suggested that the award winning papers from ANS Student Conference could be put into the Time Capsule.

Doug Wood has some pictures for the Time Capsule. Joe Sholtis will try and touch base with Ed Klevans and Prof. Motta to see if there is a preference for the file-format of the pictures.

Judges for the ANS Student Conference can sign-up on the registration form.

Regarding the ANS Student Conference, there was a discussion about which panels are full and which still need more volunteers. The Westinghouse CTO is talking Thursday night at the banquet. Keynote speakers are still needed for Friday and Saturday night.

Questions about the Conference packages can be directed to Catherine Perego.

**The next PSNES meeting will be a teleconference on December 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.**