

PENN STATE NUCLEAR ENGINEERING SOCIETY

MEETING MINUTES – August 21, 2016 – PSNES On-Campus Meeting

Participants:

PSNES Officers & Directors

Pat Loftus – Interim President with proxy for Director Eric Beaumont
Rick Etling – Past President
Arthur Motta – Program Chair NucE (with vote)
Kenan Unlu – RSEC Director and Faculty Representative (with vote)
Hilary Neal – Secretary /Treasurer
John Atchison – At-Large Director
Doug Wood – At-Large Director
Jim Tusar – At-Large Director
Joe Sholtis – At-Large Director
Duane Karchner – At-Large Director
Mike Pantano – At-Large Director
Jeremy Barnhart – ANS Student President (Ex-Officio non voting Member)

PSNES Members

Jack Brenizer
Eileen Supko
Matt Wargon
Matt Ellis
Cathy Perego

Meeting Attendees:

Dr. Karen Thole - Department Head, Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering
Dr. Susan Bohna - College of Engineering, Director of Major Gifts
Candace Davison - RSEC Staff and PSU WIN Student Chapter Advisor
Diana Brenizer
Patrick Campbell – Student ANS member

OPENING

Pat Loftus began the meeting at 12:30pm, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Roll call was conducted, and it was confirmed that a quorum was present to conduct business.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of April 30, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the previous business meeting (in April 2016) are approved and posted on the PSNES Website.

Website Link:

http://assets.engr.psu.edu/MNE/docs/PSNES%20Minutes/2016_04_Minutes.pdf

Financial Report

Dr. Motta provided the financial report. The PSNES General Account has a balance of \$1,571.08 (unchanged from the April 2016 meeting).

\$100 will be paid to the ANS student winner for the decal competition.

2016 PSNES Election Results & 2016-2018 Board

The new Board transition/turnover was completed at the August 21st PSNES Annual Meeting.

The PSNES Officers for the August 2016-2018 Term are:

- Interim President - Pat Loftus (through August 2016), Catherine Perego (August 2016 - 2018 Election cycle)
- Vice President/President Elect: Vacant
- Secretary/Treasurer - Hilary Neal

The three new At-Large Directors for the term 2016-2020 are:

- Matt Ellis
- Jim Tusar
- Matt Wargon

Discussion was initiated around how long the officer terms should be and whether or not elections should be every year or every two years.

The complete At-Large Director roster through 2018 is:

- Matt Ellis (2016-2020)
- Jim Tusar (2016-2020)
- Matt Wargon (2016-2020)
- John Atchison (2013-2018)
- Eric Beaumont (2013-2018)
- Duane Karchner (2013-2018)
- Vacant Position (Hilary Neal- 2013-2018)
- Michael Pantano (2013-2018)
- Doug Wood (2013-2018)

Non-Elected Board Members with Vote:

- Dr. Arthur Motta
- Dr. Kenan Unlu (RSEC Director and Faculty Representative)
- Rick Etling (PSNES Past President through 2018)

Effective in August 2016, the At-Large Director position currently held by Hilary Neal (term 2013-2018) will be vacant when she assumes the role of PSNES Secretary/Treasurer (2016-2018). The Board passed a motion to fill the 2016-2018 Director position, but the position has yet to be filled.

Actions:

1. **PSNES Members interested in filling the remaining term for At-Large Director Hilary Neal (2016-2018) should contact the PSNES President or Secretary.**
2. **John Atchison will work with Pat Loftus to update the PSNES Board Orientation document to support both Board member transitions and facilitate Board operations.**
3. **Doug Wood, Rick Etling, and Michael Pantano to work with Eric Beaumont to draft constitution changes**
 - a. **RSEC Director and associated staff will be able to be members of PSNES**
 - b. **Predetermined succession plan if an Officer resigns**
 - c. **Additional discussion to come after first draft is completed**

E-Commons Closer to Reality

A donation letter is planned to drop on September 13th, as part of the Lion Line. There will also be a URL where people can donate. There has been good university support, and sponsorship has been obtained. There are still some larger areas of the E-Commons where sponsorship still needs to be obtained.

2016 PSNES Priorities and Focus Areas (Validation)

The following PSNES priorities and focus areas were discussed:

- 2016 PSNES Election and BOD (Board of Directors) transitions
- What can PSNES do to help, support, and advance the NucE Program, RSEC, Student ANS, and PSU Women in Nuclear (WIN)?
- PSNES membership growth and engagement
- Student Mentoring/Networking growth and engagement

The upcoming Nuc E orientation was utilized as a key opportunity to connect with current Nuc E students. Jim Tusar talked about mentoring and Hilary Neal shared business cards that had the URL for the PSNES LinkedIn page.

Actions:

1. **PSNES Members should update their resumes on the ANGEL website**

NucE Early Career Award

Matt Wargon reported out on the development of the PSNES Early Career Award. He made a motion to adopt a similar format as the Penn State Mechanical Engineering Society (PSMES) award form. Those present agreed it would be a good initiative. Nominations will be open for a period of time, and the announcement is planned for December 2016. Catherine Perego, Arthur Motta, Matt Wargon, Jim Tusar, and Hilary Neal will support this year's initiation of the award.

NEW BUSINESS

Status of MNE Department

Dr. Thole provided a thorough discussion on the status of the Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering. There is a request out to the provost on acquiring up to four new professors.

Enrollments this year are a little low, but the department continues to grow the program and new faculty was welcomed. New additions mentioned were Dr. Flaska and Dr. Tonks.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Department of Homeland Security, a new truck inspection area and Borotron Building are being built.

Status of NucE Department

Dr. Motta provided updates on the status of the NucE Program. He discussed his thoughts for the Future of Nuclear event for students. The event should be a positive event, not focused on the challenges of retiring nuclear plants. Speakers will be featured to highlight unique experiences, such as Catherine Perego who will talk about her time over in China. Matt Wargon could also talk about working at VC Summer. Dr. Motta will continue to identify topics and try to work with the appropriate contacts.

PSNES will not have a specific table at the College of Engineering tailgate event, but volunteers will promote the created business cards and work to generate awareness for the organization. Eileen Supko donated nuclear-themed coasters for this tailgate.

Radiation Science and Engineering Center (RSEC)

Dr. Unlu provided an update on RSEC. The Moderator Assembly project continues. It is supposed to be finished by the end of 2016. The design is ready, but there have been some delays.

Two new grants have been acquired with Westinghouse and the Department of Energy (DOE) for wireless transmission in the reactor. The DOE contributed \$30,000 and Westinghouse contributed \$150,000. There is also more formalized program in the

works for Nuclear Safety and Security.

ANS Update

Jeremy Barnhart provided a report out for the American Nuclear Society student group. The biggest challenge the organization is currently facing is retaining current members and gaining new members. ANS has been working to overcome this with study groups and active participation in THON. Approximately half of the current officers are underclassmen.

The winter ANS student conference will be in Las Vegas and Jeremy is planning on attending. For the 2016 Spring student conference, 19 students from PSU went to Wisconsin, which was the highest number in history and there were two conference winners. This coming Spring 2017, the student conference will be held at the University of Pittsburgh.

Roundtable - Member/PSU News & Calendar of Events Look-Ahead

APG Grants

The APG Grant process will be coming up again. The submittal deadline is 8/31, and PSNES would have through June 2017 to use these funds. Catherine Perego, Hilary Neal, Matt Wargon, and Jim Tusar will support this.

Penn State Engineering Alumni Society (PSEAS)

There is a newly developed PSEAS Marketing team. More information to come on this as it becomes available.

Other Actions

Ramon Cruz cannot continue on as Vice President/President elect. The board will need to address this, and for the time being, the position will remain vacant pending Board action.

The meeting was adjourned so that meeting attendees could attend the Nuc. E. Student Orientation and Ice Cream Social.