

Minutes of NEDHO Business Meeting
Sunday, November 14, 1999
Hyatt Regency – Regency Ballroom C
Long Beach, CA

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:08 PM by Chairman, Bill Kastenbergl. See Attachment #1 for Agenda.
2. Attendance included Bill Kastenbergl (UC Berkeley), Alan Waltar (Texas A&M), Andy Klein (Oregon State), James Stubbins (Illinois), Nolan Hertel (Georgia Tech), Don Miller, Richard Denning, and Brian Hajek (Ohio State), Gil Brown (U. Mass, Lowell), Arden Bement (Purdue), Mike Corradini (Wisconsin), John Lucey (Notre Dame), H. Lee Dodds (Tennessee), John Christensen (Cincinnati), Jack Brenizer and Richard Benson (Penn State), Nick Tsoulfanidis (U. Missouri, Rolla), John Bernard (MIT), John Bennion, (Idaho State), Bill Martin (Michigan), Ann Winters (INPO), John Gutteridge, Madeline Feltus, and Nancy Elizondo (DOE), Craig Williamson (S. Carolina UREF), Bernadette Kirk (ORNL), Kenneth Rogers (DOE NERAC Panel), Bob Seidel (ANL-W), and Kathy McCarthy (INEEL).
3. Alan Waltar provided the financial report (Attachment #2). Since the last NEDHO meeting in June 1999, \$1750 has been contributed by 15 programs, and there have been no incurred expenses. The current balance of the NEDHO account is \$4419.54.
4. There was no separate report on the University Working Group. However, John Gutteridge noted within the following agenda item that New Mexico, Penn State, and Wisconsin would be rotating off the working group and would be replaced by Florida (Bill Vernetzen), Tennessee (Lee Dodds), and Texas A&M (Alan Waltar).
5. John Gutteridge provided the DOE University Program Update report (Attachment #3). Of special note was the increase from \$50,000 to \$60,000 for the DOE matching program. John cautioned, however, that DOE funds will be distributed only after commitment letters from industry are received at DOE headquarters. If available DOE funds have not been properly matched, they will be spent for other purposes. Hence, there is strong incentive for nuclear engineering programs to obtain the commitment letters for matching funds.

A new policy has been implemented to grant fellowship and scholarship money to students from historically black colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions IF such students then obtain a degree from a nuclear engineering program. A pilot program has been established at the University of Wisconsin. Interested parties should contact Craig Williamson for details regarding the program.

Madeline Feltus reported that ANS had been awarded a \$200,000 grant for an expanded Teacher's Workshop program. Bill Kastenbergh noted that some states allow teachers taking such a workshop to earn Continuing Education credits (a substantial incentive). As such, it may be possible to engage the C.E. organizations within some universities to jointly participate in such programs.

John Gutteridge emphasized that the NEER proposal deadline is November 18.

- 5A) Craig Williamson summarized the DOE Nuclear Engineering and Health Physics Fellowship and Scholarship program. Applications for the next round is about the end of January. One change from the previous year will be the acceptance of broader disciplines than in the past for fellowship/scholarship consideration. Craig also discussed the articulation agreement with Historically Black and Hispanic colleges. It will now be necessary for students at such colleges to complete at least one degree in a nuclear engineering program. Programs such as 3/2 are being considered.

Craig indicated he will send copies of his VGs to meeting attendees within two weeks.

- 6) Nancy Elizondo provided an update on the DOE NEER program (Attachment #4). She made it very clear that this was one program configured such that unspent funds cannot be carried over to the following year. Funding approved for a designated time MUST be spent within that time or the unspent funds are lost. Over the last year, some \$300K was left on the table due to such situations. It is then spent on other programs.
- 7) Mike Corradini reported on the newly configured NERAC Panel on the Future of Nuclear Engineering (Attachment #5). This is a "fast track" effort in that a report of this committee must be in the hands of DOE within about four months in order to constitute useful input for the new DOE strategic plan. Several people pointed out the need to take this effort seriously, because recommendations made by this committee could influence the new strategic plan in a significant manner.

Mike requested input from NEDHO members. Several members noted that considerable effort has gone into the new NEDHO vision statement (brochure) and that this product should factor heavily into the new report. After considerable discussion, it was generally agreed that the committee should not settle for recommendations on how nuclear engineering programs can simply "survive." Rather, the goal should be to determine how such programs can "flourish!"

- 8) Nolan Hertel provided a brief update on the progress of decommissioning the Georgia Tech reactor (Attachment #6). The budget for the full decommissioning is about \$5.5 million.

- 8A) Jack Brenizer gave a brief report on the status of the Penn State program, where the nuclear engineering department was recently merged into the mechanical engineering department (Attachment #7). Jack indicated strong support from the Dean to continue to confer individual degrees (i.e. both nuclear engineering and mechanical engineering). It was within this report that discussion arose regarding the DOE position in funding decommissioning costs of university research reactors. John Gutteridge made it very clear that it was DOE's position NOT to provide any funding for such activities. DOE does not favor shutting down any more university research reactors.
- 8B) Ann Winters briefed the committee on recent INPO activities on awarding scholarships for undergraduates. She pleaded with committee members for help in attending Education & Training Committee meetings and helping to facilitate the Education & Training Excellence Awards. She referred to a recent write-up of the INPO activities in ANS News.
- 8C) Nick Tsoulfanidis gave a brief report on ANS book-publishing activities. Of particular interest to NEDHO is the decision of the book publishing committee to publish a new book on Modern Reactor Physics and Analysis (by UC Berkeley professors). It is scheduled for publication in 2001 (see Attachment #8).
- 8D) Ann Winters commented that several utilities have openings for new nuclear engineers. Arden Bement noted that more BS graduates are now entering graduate school to acquire the education necessary to get good jobs outside the nuclear utility industry.
- 8E) Alan Levin gave a brief report on the WISE program (Washington, DC intern program). He noted that the program is designed to support at least two students per year and he would like to see at least 5 applications for these positions per year.
- 9) Bill Kastenberq inquired about the Y2K status of university research reactors (this was prompted by inquiries of anti-nuclear personnel in the Bay Area). Feedback from the TRTR chair indicated that no problems were anticipated.
- 10) Jeff Frieberg, who could not attend the meeting, asked Chair Bill Kastenberq to poll the committee to see if there were suggestions on how NEDHO might be more effective. The four challenges were
- 1) Should NEDHO be more active regarding Advanced Design Initiatives?
 - 2) Should NEDHO be more active in ANS?
 - 3) Should NEDHO have an ex-officio member on NERAC?
- (Note: Bill Kastenberq is currently a member of NERAC, but he will be relinquishing the chair of NEDHO next year, as well as the Chair of NE at UC Berkeley; hence, the current situation of NEDHO being represented will not necessarily be the case in subsequent years).

- 4) How can the University Working Group be more effective?
(Note: John Gutteridge indicated that Bill Magwood respects the work of this committee and almost always implements their recommendations. Hence, it seems to be quite effective at the current time).

11. The next meeting will be likely at the ASEE meeting in St Louis (possibly Tuesday, June 20). Bill Kastenbergl will poll the membership to determine the best time and place of the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at about 6:30 PM

Attachment #1 – Agenda

Attachment #2 – Finance Report

Attachment #3 - DOE University Program Update

Attachment #4 – NEER Program

Attachment #5 – NERAC Committee on Future of University NE Programs

Attachment #6 – Georgia Tech Reactor Decommissioning

Attachment #7 - Penn State Update

Attachment #8 – New book on Reactor Physics and Analysis