

Center for Power Systems Studies
Fall Meeting
MINUTES (Unofficial)
Brookings SD – October 16, 2007

1. **Call to Order:** Steve Hietpas called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 pm.

2. **Recording Secretary:** Paul Konechne, Burns & McDonnell.

3. **Roll Call:**

Steve Hietpas – CPSS Coordinator – SDSU
Wayne Knabach – SDSU (Retired)
Steve Muhdahl – Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Rick Johnson – Otter Tail Power Company
Ted Smith – Sioux Valley Energy
Terry Texley – Western Area Power Administration
Ralph Hagge – Cooper Power Systems/Cannon Technologies
John Knofczynski – Heartland Consumers Power District
Jim Edwards – East River Electric Power Cooperative
Mike Sydow – NorthWestern Energy
Jerry Tielke – Missouri River Energy Services
Justin Sturt – Interstates Engineering
Blair Metzger – DeWild Grant Reckert & Assoc., Co.
Tim Ostermeier – POWER Engineers, Inc.
Paul Konechne - Burns & McDonnell

Members not represented: Black Hills Power, MidAmerican Energy Company, and Xcel Energy.

4. **Approve Agenda:**

Jim Edwards moved and John Knofczynski seconded to accept the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

5. **Approve Minutes of April 19th, 2007 spring meeting:**

Mike Sydow moved and Ted Smith seconded to accept minutes. Motion carried. Spring meeting notes indicated that Burns & McDonnell would be removed from the Associate Members list. This will remain documented in the spring meeting notes, even though Burns & McDonnell has recently obtained Associate Member status.

6. **Coordinator:** The Coordinator's Report was included in the meeting packet. Some of the highlights of the report included:

- An update on Dr. Hietpas' summer 2007 faculty and student projects/research was presented. Some of the activities included planning for the 2008 CPSS Regional Power Conference, presenting and reviewing technical papers, supervising the Power Technology Tour and graduate students, and attending a conference for ABET Assessment.
- An update on Dr. Ropp's summer 2007 faculty and student projects and research was presented. Some of Dr. Ropp's activities included work associated with the Wind Resource Assessment Network and work to establish the Wind Applications Center (WAC) at SDSU, supervising power graduate students as well as the first Ph.D. graduate power student, continued work on the PV in the Parks project and advising several PV related student projects, and participation in the Department of Energy Renewable Systems Integration (RSI) Project.
- A power course update was provided. The following list identifies power related courses to be offered throughout the school year:
 - EE420/520 (3 cr) Electronics III, Fall 2007, 14 students taught by Dr. Hietpas

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- EE430 (3 cr) Electromechanical Systems, 24 students taught by Dr. Hietpas
 - EE492/592 (3 cr) Power Electronics, 14 students taught by Dr. Ropp
 - EE221 (3 cr) Circuits II, Spring 2008, taught by Dr. Hietpas
 - EE315 (3 cr) Linear Systems, Spring 2008 taught by Dr. Hietpas
 - EE436/536 (3 cr) Hybrid PV Systems, taught by Dr. Ropp
- A Fall 2007 scholarship list was presented in the report. Lowell Dolney received the \$3000 CPSS award.
 - A status update for all students was presented. Dr. Hietpas has added a new section to the Coordinator's Report to identify the status of all current power students. Five power students of 14 total electrical engineering students graduated in Spring 2007. Eight power students are expected to graduate in Fall 2007/Spring 2008. Five of the eight have already accepted full-time positions.
 - Dr. Hietpas will check the "49 of 203" number presented in the report. This indicates the number of EE students that have chosen the power field. Dr. Hietpas indicated the percentage shown is close to the actual number, but he will track down the exact percentage.
 - CPSS continues to have a positive impact through the CPSS scholarship and internship/cooperative opportunities.
 - Wayne. Knabach suggested that CPSS Members consider taking part in Power Technology Tour that is supervised by Dr. Hietpas every summer. It would be a great opportunity for both the students and the CPSS Members to advance their awareness of all aspects of the power industry.
 - Dr. Hietpas has been in discussion with Frank Kornbaum of Minnesota Power, Mike Fisher of Ulteig, and Pete Famighetti of ABB about the possibility of becoming CPSS members, at the appropriate level. Wayne. Knabach suggested contacting Mike Jamison with TSP about possible membership.
 - The current membership list was passed around in order for those present to review and update as needed. Jim Edwards expressed concern with the Army Core of Engineers membership status. Jim will provide Dr. Hietpas a contact at the Core of Engineers so that discussion about possible membership activity can be initiated.

7. ***Conference Committee:***

2 year commitment – now conferences are bi-annual

Outgoing member(s): Ralph Hagge (Cannon)

Remaining member(s): Nate Jones (Heartland Consumers)

Discussion: Dr. Hietpas expressed his concern about Nate Jones being required to serve a four year term on this committee. The Members present did not see this as a problem.

8. ***Special Project Committee:***

Outgoing member(s): Mike Sydow (NorthWestern Energy)

Remaining member(s): Terry Texley (WAPA)

New member(s): Ted Smith (Sioux Valley Energy)

Discussion: This committee is the lowest activity committee. The only recent activity performed by this committee has been review and approval of Dr. Hietpas' or Dr. Ropp's annual design

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project proposal. There was discussion to eliminate this committee, but the Members decided to maintain the committee.

9. ***Budget Committee:***

Outgoing member(s): Jim Edwards (East River Electric Power Cooperative)

Remaining member(s): Blair Metzger (DGR)

New member(s): Mike Sydow (NorthWestern Energy)

Discussion: Members of this committee are responsible for reviewing the budget. This generally requires only an hour or two of work every year.

10. ***Old Business:***

- ***Update on Who's Who in Power Engineering from SDSU – Website***
 - Dr. Hietpas gave a presentation of the new CPSS website. A temporary website has been set up and was located at <http://cpss.damski.net>. This has now been published at <http://cpss.sdstate.edu>
 - The Who's Who List on the website requires a password in order to update information. The password can be obtained via email request to Dr. Hietpas. All members should update their information and provide any comments or concerns associated with the website. Members are encouraged to let others who are on the list know of this resource; provide them with the password so that they may update their information.
 - Jerry Tielke suggested that Dr. Hietpas adopt some system for backing up the Who's Who List in case parts of the list are accidentally deleted or in case the list is sabotaged.
 - Ralph Hagge suggested that a checkbox option be added to give people on the list the option to not have their contact information displayed. This would allow the information to be retained by Dr. Hietpas, but not displayed to all other people viewing the list.
- ***Conference Committee Report:*** Ralph Hagge provided hard copies of the Conference Committee Report. The following is a description of the items discussed in the report:
 - Non-power topics and highly technical topics at the past conferences have not been rated highly. There is a desire for 'real-life' project type presentations. All future presentations will be 50 minutes long. If any of the members have any suggestions for topics or presenters, they should provide Ralph Hagge this information.
 - A suggestion was made to have a career fair from 5-6 pm during the conference.
 - The conference budget was presented as part of the Committee Report. A total of \$2500 was budgeted for the conference.
 - The tentative date of October 13-14, 2008 was set for the conference. Dr. Hietpas will make arrangements to reserve the rooms needed for the conference.

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- The conference banquet will be moved to Monday night in order to allow attendees time to travel home on Tuesday night.
- **Power Student Brochure:** the power student brochure has been completed. The brochure looks good. The only comment was that the fold lines covered some of the text. Dr. Hietpas will look into this before more of the brochures are printed.

11. **New Business:**

- **FY 2006-2007 Financial Report:** Dr. Hietpas circulated copies of the 2006/2007 financial report.
 - Dr. Hietpas explained that a couple of the items budgeted for last year will actually be charged to the budget for this fiscal year.
 - Cannon Technology, Power Engineers, Inc. and Sioux Valley Energy were accidentally charged membership dues twice last year, so those dues will not show up on next year's financial report.
 - Jim Edwards moved and John Knofczynski seconded to approve the budget as submitted. Motion carried.
- **Undergraduate Power Emphasis**
 - Linear Controls has been added as a required class for all EE students.
 - Electromechanical Systems/Lab is the only required senior level course other than senior design. There has been some discussion within the department to make this course an elective rather than a required course. Some members expressed concern with such a decision, stating that they thought the topics covered in this course were fundamental topics for an electrical engineer; however, the members agreed that other courses, such as Communications, are also fundamental topics that should be required.
 - Jim Edwards expressed concern that the enrollment numbers for this course would fall below the required minimum, thus resulting in cancellation of the course. Dr. Hietpas and Dr. Ropp were both confident that this would not be a problem. Also, all power students would still be required to take this course if it becomes an elective.
 - Dr. Hietpas will present the CPSS concerns about making the course an elective when the department makes the determination.
- **Graduate Program – Proposed Power Track**
 - There has been a drive to make the masters degree programs more specialized in specific fields, especially power. There have been several new potential course listed, but the faculty and students are not available at this time to support a graduate power program.
 - There has been a push to offer many of the graduate courses on-line. This may help attract more students by making the courses more accessible to all.
- **PV in the Park's Program:**

Dr. Ropp gave an update on his continued work with the National Parks to find applications in which the students can design and install a power system needed for remote locations where PV

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can be beneficial. He has had great success with the previous projects, and the project of the summer of 2008 will be located at Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii. Dr. Ropp thanked the CPSS for their continued funding of the program.

- **Miscellaneous:**

- T&D Magazine is offering training course seminars for younger power engineers.
 - Mike Sydow mentioned that Black Hills Power is also hosting a conference with some power related courses. If anyone is interested they can contact Dave Lankutis at dlankut@blackhills.com.
 - Dr. Ropp gave a brief overview of the Wind Program at SDSU.
- **Place/Date for spring 2008 Spring Meeting will be April 24th, NorthWestern Energy, Huron.**

12. **Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:45 with a motion by Ralph Hagge and seconded by Paul Konechne. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Konechne, Burns & McDonnell
Recording Secretary
October 16, 2007
Typed and Submitted October 21, 2007