

Center for Power System Studies
Semiannual Meeting
MINUTES
April 26, 2001 – Madison, SD

1. **Call to Order:** Steve Hietpas called Meeting to order at 1:35 pm.
2. **Recording Secretary:** Ralph Hagge
3. **Roll Call:** See attached attendance sheet.
4. **Approval of Agenda** Rick VanHatten moved and Dave Westbrook seconded to approve agenda. Passed unanimously by voice vote.
5. **Approval of September 20th, 2000 Minutes of Annual Meeting held in Brookings, SD:**
Dave Westbrook moved to accept Minutes. Seconded by Jim Edwards. Passed unanimously by voice vote.
6. **Coordinator's Report:** Steve Hietpas reported on the progress of the projects and research by various students involved in the New Energy Lab Design Project. These were Jim Steinmeyer (rail-mounted dynamometer), James Ziebarth (hardware & software I/O integration), Casey Sichmeller and Troy Metzger (Automated Load bank & Power Work Benches), and Shawn & Michelle Fagan (2000 Power technology Tour website design). Phase II of the New Energy Lab Design has been underway during the fall 2000 and Spring 2001 semesters. Working directly on Phase II, Vijay Kambhammettu (graduate student) has been designing the Power Processing Station and James Ziebarth has been working on developing & testing the AC & DC 3-phase contactors.

Under a NSF grant, Steve continues to direct the work of three (3) graduate students projects. Specifically these are Md. Sattar Abdus (design & construction of a Volts/Hz AC induction motor drive), Kandula M. Bhargav (design of a DC/DC motor drive), and Sudeep Pyakuryal (Intertie modeling of Otter Tail Power distribution with wind turbine generators). Steve is also involved with an IEEE Rural Electric Power Conference committee. Steve has been working with Michael Ropp on a paper to be presented at the 2001 ASEE Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM dealing with the incorporation of Electrical Drives as a topic in Electrical Machine courses. A summary of all the CPSS scholarship recipients and those involved in summer internships was given. Please see Steve's report for a summary of the myriad of other activities Steve has been involved in this past year.

7. **Deans COE Report:** Dr. Brown for Dr. Ellerbruch - Report and handout.
Some highlights include:
Dr. Brown announced that he has accepted the position of Dean of Engineering to fill the vacancy left by Dr. Virgil Ellerbruch. He stated his ongoing commitment, as Dean, to the Dept. of Electrical Engineering. As Dean, Dr. Brown's first tasks will be to finish the CEH building projects and name his replacements for the positions of Head of Computer Science & Electrical Engineering. He hopes to have these positions filled by July 1st. Dr. Brown will also be recruiting individuals from industry to The Dean's Advisory Council to maintain and enhance the College of Engineering's ties to industry. Dr. Brown briefly mentioned the Solberg Hall Renovation Project and the special place that the restoration of this landmark holds in his emotions. Responding to questions as to the current state of the job market for EE graduates, Dr. Brown reported that the job market is very good from the prospective of the students with employers competing aggressively for top graduates. The offering of sign-on bonuses in the \$5000-\$7000 range, stock options, and considerably high starting salaries in the ranges of \$42,000 to \$50,000+ is occurring. Amazingly, recruiting of EE students is going on between the junior and senior year upon completion of summer internships. Overall EEs are receiving upwards of three (3) times the number of offers, as are ME & CE graduates. Dr. Brown expressed the importance of CPSS scholarships and summer internships to the ongoing success of Power EE students. Responding to a question on the effect of decreased funding of SDSU foreseeable in the next few years, Dr. Brown stated that the coming year would be the tightest year financially he has seen since joining SDSU, but that as State funding decreases, more has to be and is being done by private enterprise, giving the CEH and Solberg projects as example.

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8. **EE Department Report:** Dr. Brown - Report and handout.
Some highlights include:
Dr. Brown reported that the recent findings of the 2000 census show a decrease of population in South Dakota pointing to a corresponding decrease in enrollments at SDSU. In response the State has indicated that funding will be decreased across the board by roughly 10% over the coming years. Currently however, this year's undergraduate enrollment was up slightly from 168 in 1999 to 172 in 2000. Graduate enrollment is up from 16 to 32 M.S. students in the Dept. making the enrollment level second only to that in Computer Science. Preparation is underway for the forthcoming ABET accreditation review to meet requirements that the EE program work with area electrical engineering personnel in developing the program's educational objectives. Dr. Robert Finch was recruited by IBM of Rochester and has subsequently left the EE Dept. Dr. Denis Helder is now the most senior staff member. Dr. Steve Hietpas gave a report on the progress being made in the design of the new Energy Laboratory. Development is coming along well and excitement is high for participating students as well as Steve. Preliminary design and testing is mostly complete and materials for the construction of the first two Power Work Benches (PWBs) are being received.
9. **ME Department Report:** Dr. Brown for Dr. Froehlich – No highlights given. See Dr. Froehlich's report for details.
10. **Student Project 2000-2001:**
Following the student presentation of the New Energy Lab Design Project by Vijay Kambhammettu and James Ziebarth in the morning, and Steve Hietpas in the afternoon, the current Proposal was reviewed and the meeting was opened for comments and feedback. Rick VanHatten expressed his agreement with the concept of the design project and with the proposed 50% - 50% cost sharing between SDSU and CPSS for labor expenses. Motion by Rick VanHatten and seconded by Bob Endahl to accept the Proposal as written. Motion passed by voice vote.
11. **Letters from CPSS Scholarship Recipients:** Steve Hietpas called attention to the packet of Thank You letters written by students receiving CPSS scholarships, and related his favorable comments regarding the high qualifications and personal characteristics of many of these individuals. It was very encouraging to hear of the personal details and accomplishments of the recipients.
12. **Report by Conference Committee:** Jim Edwards reported on the recent CPSS conference held in Brookings on April 3rd and asked for the group's feedback on the effectiveness of the conference speakers and the topics presented. The overall consensus was favorable based on evaluation forms collected at the conference, although there was a wide variety of responses as to what topics were the most useful and least useful to the participants. Greg Vaselaar related that Mike Cannon was the only speaker that was an SDSU graduate, and perhaps an emphasis should be placed on recruiting more SDSU graduates as the presenters for future conferences. Discussion was held on what the frequency of holding future conferences should be. It was felt that since the speakers are recruited without compensation, it might be easier to arrange speakers if the conference was held less often than annually. The consensus of the group was to keep the conference to a one-day event and keep the conference day separated from the CPSS meeting days. A suggestion was made by Corey Kasuske to recruit speakers from the member utilities of CPSS. The group agreed that holding future conferences on a year-and-a-half basis would be preferable to an annual basis. Based on this, it was suggested that the next conference to be held during fall 2002.

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13. **Revised Report on 1999-2000 Financial Report:** Steve Hietpas reported on a revision to the Financial Report based on a correction to the amount listed for Student Stipends on page 2 of the report. The corrected amount was \$10,000, reduced by \$1200 from the previously reported amount. The correction was due to an error of when student scholarships were billed to the CPSS account. Motion by Jim Edwards and seconded by Rick VanHatten to approve the report as revised.

14. **Report on 2001-2002 Proposed Budget:** Discussion was held on the state of Associate membership by Alliant-IES and ABB Power T & D Company. It was reported that ABB is assumed to continue its membership, while contacts with Alliant-IES seem to indicate that they no longer have interest in CPSS membership. Also NIPCO has dropped its Associate membership based on a NIPCO letter received by Steve Hietpas. Tim Ostermeier of POWER Engineers, Inc. has re-established an Associate membership. It was proposed that the Associate membership would be increased from \$200 annually to \$250, resulting in an overall proposed budget income total of \$29,700 and a budget expense total of \$29,625. Bob Endahl motioned to accept the proposed 2001-2002 budget and Dave Westbrook seconded. Passed by voice vote.

15. **Meeting Date for Annual Meeting (fall):**
September 18th & 19th (Tues. & Weds.).

16. **Motion to Express Appreciation to East River Electric as Host Organization:**
Motion made by Dave Westbrook and Seconded by Larry DeKramer. Passed by voice vote.

17. **CPSS's recognition of Wayne Knabach's contribution, and expression of thanks:**
Rick VanHatten submitted the following statement on behalf of all the CPSS membership: "The members present note that this meeting was the first time in the 33+ year history of the CPSS's existence that Wayne Knabach was not present at the semiannual meeting. The group expresses their best wishes to Wayne as he passes the CPSS torch to Steve Hietpas able hands."

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph G. Hagge
Recording Secretary
April 26, 2001