

Center for Power System Studies
Semi-annual Meeting
MINUTES
Sioux Falls, SD – April 22, 1999

1. *Call to Order:* Meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Steve Hietpas.
2. *Recording Secretary:* Michael Ropp of South Dakota State University was drafted to be the recording secretary.
3. *Roll Call:* See attached attendance sheet.
4. *Approve Agenda:* Agenda was unanimously approved by voice vote, without discussion.
5. *Approve Minutes of September 16 Annual Meeting:* Annual meeting minutes approved without discussion by unanimous voice vote.
6. *Membership List Update:* Steve Hietpas called particular attention to the membership list. In some of the packets distributed to meeting attendees, the pagination of the list was incorrect. A master (correct) copy was passed around for comparison.
7. *Student Thank-You Letters:* Particular attention was also called to the large number of thank-you notes received from students who received financial support from the CPSS. The positive impact made by the CPSS in power education was noted.
8. *Coordinator's Report:* See report. Steve Hietpas discussed several of the main points.
9. *Dean's Report:* Lew Brown reported on behalf of Dean Duane Sander of SDSU's College of Engineering. Duane Sander wished to thank the CPSS for 31 years of support. Dean Sander is retiring this year, and a new Dean Search Committee has been formed and hopes to have a new Dean selected by July 1 of this year. Duane Sander also mentioned the two major building projects taking place on campus:
 - the new Engineering building addition. SDSU now owns all the land to the south of Crothers Hall to 8th Street, and funding for construction of the building has been obtained. The only remaining obstacle is State approval. The Engineering building addition will then be built on the south side of Crothers. This addition will house the new Energy Conversion Lab, and Dean Sander wished to express his thanks to the CPSS for its financial support of the new Lab.
 - possible renovation of Solberg Hall. Solberg has been condemned, and a fundraising team is examining the possibility of gutting the structure, reconstructing it from the inside out, and housing all Engineering Technology programs there.
10. *Electrical Engineering Department Head's Report:* Lew Brown reported that the number of full-time faculty in the EE Department, including himself, is now down to 8. Resources are stretched extremely thin, and with enrollments beginning to recover after their mid-1990s decline, the situation will become less manageable. In view of this, Lew Brown stated that his main message was an emphatic "thank you" to the CPSS for its support, which becomes ever more critical with the depleted resources of the Department. Lew Brown also noted that the quality of our students remains very high, with many of the "cream of the crop" going into power-related areas specifically because of the availability of CPSS financial support. Several questions followed:

Question: How many women are there in the Electrical Engineering program?
Answer: About 10% of our students are female. There's a considerable amount of work remaining in that area.

Question: What percentage of our students are from minority groups?
Answer: EE is very non-diverse, another area in which we need work. We have several students from Asia in the Department at present. The largest minority group in South Dakota is, of course, the Native American group, and we need more scholarships and efforts to attract them.

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Question: What are the job market and salaries like currently?

Answer: Lew Brown reported that the job market for EEs is currently borderline ridiculous. SDSU EE graduates are in extremely high demand; 100% of our graduating senior class has already taken jobs. Salaries can be as high as \$45,000/year, and signing bonuses as large as \$5,000 are the rule rather than the exception.

Question: If salaries are so high and jobs so plentiful, why aren't there more EE students?

Answer: There is a large time lag between market demand and realization on the part of our young people.

Question: Which EE specializations are in the most demand at present?

Answer: Computer networking and architecture are actually beginning to plateau. Designers are in more and more demand, and the area of power is seeing an increase as well.

10. *Mechanical Engineering Department Head's Report:* Lew Brown reported on behalf of Don Froehlich of Mechanical Engineering. Again, the predominant message was "thank you" to the CPSS. See attached report.
11. *Student Design Project:* See attached proposal. The project was extensively discussed before being unanimously approved by voice vote.
12. *Conference Committee Report:* Potential topics for CPSS Conferences are on an attached list. The Conference will be held in Brookings, SD, during the Fall semester at SDSU. CPSS members were asked to choose six topics, from the list of 18, they would most like to see covered at the Conference and email them to Jayme Huber. For those Professional Engineers seeking Professional Development Hours, this Conference would count. (Attendance will be taken, so that proof of attendance can be provided to the State Board.) It was also mentioned that if speakers could be chosen from the Siouxland IEEE Section Speakers List, then the CPSS could retain the services of these speakers free of charge.
13. *Proposed Budget:* The Budget asks for \$2,500 per member per year, which is an increase of \$300 over last year's budget. Steve Hietpas asked that the heading "Miscellaneous Project Development" be changed to read "Undergraduate Support". This change was approved without discussion. The primary reason for \$300 increase is due to an increase in both Undergraduate and Graduate Support for special developmental and research project. "Undergraduate Summer Support" was clarified to mean the support of construction of a new lab bench for the new Energy Conversion Lab. This support is for the summer only and does not affect the normal yearly budget requests that caused the increase in member support. A question and answer period followed.
 - Question: When was the last increase in CPSS membership dues?
 - Answer: Approximately two years ago and that increase was \$100/year.
 - Question: Why is the Coordinator's Fee reduced so much this year?
 - Answer: This is because last year's Coordinator's Fee was intended to be a one-year support only, and that term has expired. The support was for the Coordinator's travel to visit with and become better acquainted with members of the CPSS.
 - Question: What is the "Undergraduate Support" for?
 - Answer: It will be used to pay an hourly wage to undergraduate students working on special power-related projects, to stimulate further student interest in the area of power and research.
 - Question: What is the "Graduate Student Support" for?
 - Answer: This will be used as a partial graduate-student stipend. Lew Brown noted that the amount proposed is actually below the University's minimum allowable stipend.
 - Question: Why are ABB and Aliant not contributing this year?
 - Answer: The SDSU alumnus who used to work at ABB is no longer there. However, Wayne Knabach suggested alternate ABB contacts. The reduction in Aliant's contribution is due to a typo in the request sent to them by SDSU. Aliant has stated that they intend to continue to contribute at their past level.
 - Question: Could the minimum donation required of Associate members be increased?

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Answer: Wayne Knabach noted that the present "required" minimum of \$200 has never been an official CPSS policy; it is more of an unwritten rule. He offered two suggestions: 1) make the \$200 minimum an official policy, and encourage Associate members to donate more; 2) wait a year or two, then increase the "unwritten rule" donation for Associates.

Before voting on the Proposed Budget, a quorum check was taken. Three voting members (Missouri River Energy Services, Black Hills Power and Light, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative) were unrepresented, but all others were present, constituting a quorum. The Budget was unanimously approved, as amended (noted above), by voice vote.

14. *Place/Date for Fall 1999 Annual Meeting:*

Members noted that a MAPP conference was being held on September 2-3, 1999, and an MPS conference was scheduled for the first week of October 1999. To avoid these conflicts, it was suggested that the CPSS annual meeting be held on September 14-15, 1999. This date was unanimously approved.

15. *Appreciation to host:* it was unanimously approved to show appreciation to the host of the meeting, Northern States Power (represented by Brad Sylliaasen).

16. *Adjourn:*

Having concluded all business, a motion was asked for to adjourn the meeting. It was so moved and seconded, and the motion was passed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Ropp
Recording Secretary/Designated Scribbler
April 29, 1999