Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Teleconference Call
Friday, May 9, 2008

# PSPE VISION
PSPE is the recognized voice and advocate of all Professional Engineers who are licensed in Pennsylvania

# PSPE MISSION
Promote and defend the interests of Pennsylvania’s Professional Engineers

I. Call to order – President Leonard Bernstein, P.E. F.NSPE
President Bernstein called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

II. Roll call of the Executive Committee – Secretary Joseph F. Boward, PE
A. The attached roll call sheet indicates attendance; a quorum (minimum five members in accordance with Bylaw 9, Section 3) was present.

B. Also Present:
PSPE Executive Director, CAE – John Wanner
PSPE Deputy Executive Director – Jennifer Summers

III. Approval of Minutes:
A. April 9, 2008 – Motion by Immediate Past President Hnatiuk to approve the Minutes as written; seconded by Treasurer Nawn. Motion approved.

IV. Bachelors Plus 30 Issue – NSPE Professional Policy (PP) No. 168 – Immediate Past President and HoD Representative Hnatiuk is requesting that the Executive Committee develop a position on this issue, as it will be discussed at the upcoming NSPE meeting. PP No. 168 supports mandating that, in addition to all current requirements, a bachelor’s degree in engineering plus an additional 30 engineering study credits be required to sit for the Professional Engineer exam. The Nevada Society of Professional Engineers Board drafted a position paper basically opposing PP No. 168. Each Executive Committee member stated his/her position with respect to this issue. Nine members opposed PP No. 168 and one supported it. Points made by those in opposition included: in its current form, PP No. 168 leaves too many questions unanswered; the additional requirements would make engineering a less attractive profession to prospective college students; before instituting such requirements, it should be determined why ABET allowed the credit requirements for a bachelor’s degree in engineering to erode; mandating PP No. 168 would put small engineering schools at a disadvantage, as they may not have a large selection of Masters level courses available to meet the additional required 30 credits; when NSPE endorsed PP No. 168, they were disconnected from the membership, and now they are realizing that the apparent majority may not support this policy; and no more barriers to PE licensure are needed. Those supporting PP No. 168 indicated that such requirements, instituted by a professional organization such as NSPE, would elevate the respect deserved by professional engineers; such a policy could enhance the image of the engineer. Some suggested that sitting for the FE exam be a requirement for the engineering bachelor’s degree. It was also suggested that continuing education be required for those who pass the FE exam, before allowing them to take the PE exam. Most members thought that ABET should be queried as to why schools have allowed the erosion of engineering programs. Treasurer Nawn was asked to draft a consensus position of the Executive Committee. Vice President Sadaka will draft the position supporting PP No. 168. The position papers will be presented to the PSPE Board of Directors so that a PSPE position can be developed at the June 2008 Board meeting. A consensus position must be developed by then so that HoD representative Hnatiuk can relay it to the NSPE Board meeting in July.
V. Executive Committee Reimbursement Policy – New incoming Executive Committee members were invited to the Executive Committee meeting in Gettysburg, even though they will not officially be Committee members yet. It was decided that the incoming members – Richard Aulenbach, P.E. and Eric Tappert, P.E. – will be reimbursed for appropriate expenses related to attendance at the meeting.

VI. Legislative Update – John Wanner, CAE

A. Continuing Education Regulations Update – Bill amendments are required to satisfy the Senate. The only significant change will eliminate continuing education credit for active participation in an engineering association. In June 2008, the bill should move to the House.

B. Department of General Services (DGS) – The revised General Provisions for Professional Design Services is still being developed. It will be published on the DGS web site for public comment. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is not pleased with the current version.

C. HB 1096 Uniform Construction Code – This bill is close to being enacted. It will set up an Advisory Committee that will work with the Department of Industry to review proposed Code changes.

VII. Total Membership Proposal – This proposal was developed by the Harrisburg Chapter Membership Committee. It was sent via e-mail to the PSPE Executive Committee members. The Executive Committee has been asked to review the proposal. The PSPE Membership Committee will also review it. Depending on the PSPE Membership Committee evaluation, it may be discussed at the June 2008 PSPE Board meeting. The intent is to improve PSPE membership and elevate its quality.

VIII. Strategic Planning and Membership Conference – The Bedford Springs Resort is being considered as the venue to hold this conference. Also considering scheduling a brief Executive Committee meeting followed by the Strategic Planning meeting on July 11, 2008. The Leadership Training Program will be held on July 12 and will be led by Vice President Poplawski.

IX. Upcoming Executive Committee Meetings

A. The next meeting of the executive committee will be held at the PSPE conference in Gettysburg, beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 5.

X. Adjournment – President Bernstein adjourned the meeting at 12:10 PM?

Respectfully submitted,


JOSEPH F. BOWARD, P.E.
Secretary