

CANADIAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY/SOCIÉTÉ NUCLÉAIRE CANADIENNE INC.

To: CNS Council
From: Bill Garland <garlandw@mcmaster.ca>
Subject: Update on the Universities Committee
Date: August 5, 1999

file # 1600

Recent activities:

- Meeting on 1999.06.22:
A meeting was held at RMC in Kingston to discuss distance learning. Present were Brent Lewis, Hugues Bonin, Les Bennett, Paul Allaire, Martin Pierre, Cathy Neilson and Bill Anderson (all from RMC), Ron Handcock (U of T) and Bill Garland (McMaster). To summarize the lively and informative discussion:
 - Distance Learning - Paul Allaire discussed and demonstrated the distance learning facilities at RMC that are connected to similar facilities at the University of Ottawa and the University of Moncton. Funding came from the federal government with the view to promoting education in French. The facilities are superb and the highlight was the Smart Board which is capable of internet based, interactive, simultaneous transmission to all sites.
 - Sharing of course material was discussed. The main barrier appears to be the use of copyrighted information such as extracts (figures, tables, text and other data) from books and commercial documents. Course material cannot be publically shared until copyrights have been satisfied. In the interim, there is no reason why course notes cannot be privately shared and there was general agreement to do that. Given the sheer volume of material that could be potentially shared, it was agreed that the first step would be to provide the committee chair with detailed outlines of all courses (electronic form preferred). This information would then be placed on the web for public access. Professors can then determine likely sources of relevant information as the individual needs arise. In addition, areas of significant overlap will indicate potential areas of collaboration. The intent is to accumulate a storehouse of canned topic segments that all can use.
 - It was agreed that short statements would be prepared giving the status of the various programs, including strengths and weaknesses. This will be useful for prospective students and for researchers.
 - There was a post-meeting discussion between Hugues Bonin and Bill Garland to solidify actions. It was agreed that Bill would initiate the gathering of course outlines, publication records, program status briefs and other such information. This information would be placed on the web and offered to the Bulletin editor for publication. It was agreed that we would pursue the distance learning facilities initiative by attempting to give a Branch seminar via this facility. Action was placed on Hugues to propose to industry that they support two graduate student scholarships, research initiatives and sabbatical leaves.

Status of standing committee actions and activities:

- **Sharing of Course Material:**
Development continues on distance learning material related to CANDU. The trial version of the CANDU OVERVIEW course on CD-ROM and is still under review and testing.
- University Course Sharing

The possibility of a reciprocal course credit agreement between RMC and McMaster continues to be investigated.

- Student Conference:

The next conference will be held at McMaster University in the spring of 2000, hosted by yours truly. The possibility of linking this conference with another event is being investigated.

- Web Site:

The web site established for the sharing of information related to nuclear science and engineering is <http://epic.mcmaster.ca/~garlandw/> . Contributions to the web site are encouraged.

- AECL Contact

Discussions with AECL on possible university - AECL collaboration are continuing.

- Next Meeting:

- An informal meeting will be held for all those interested in the committee's activities at the Annual CNS Student Conference (March, 2000).
- An informal meeting will be held for all those interested in the committee's activities at the Annual CNS Conference (June (?), 2000).

Cc via email:

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