
Universities Committee

Canadian Nuclear Society

REPORT

To: CNS Council
From: Bill Garland <garlandw@mcmaster.ca>
Subject: Update on the Universities Committee
Date: June 17, 1998

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The following summarizes the status of standing committee actions and activities during the past 12 months:

- **Sharing of Course Material:**
The AECL - Thailand initiative remains a good vehicle to facilitate course sharing. George Bereznai in Thailand has assembled some 40 courses. Written lecture material (course notes and overheads) have been archived in hard copy and electronically. Many of the courses were video taped but the quality of the recordings is not high. There is much detail work left to be done in turning the written lecture material (course notes and overheads) into a format that is easily distributed and facilitates self-paced computer based learning or distance learning. One of the courses I gave in Thailand this past February is being used as a development test bed. It seems that the best production path is to directly print the electronic text (Word or WordPerfect or whatever) to a pdf file. This file can be annotated with sound and animation. This is a compressed format file that is directly readable by a browser using the Acrobat add-in (available as freeware). Thus, distribution over the net can be easily achieved. I am still working with George on pedagogical issues. I recently received my copy of about half of the courses. CNS Council requested a reference copy for its library. The sharing of course material and copyright remain as key unresolved issues.
- **Annual Student Conference:** The March 98 CNS Student conference held at RMC, Kingston was very successful. Papers were presented on the usual wide variety of nuclear related subjects. The student level breakdown for the 24 papers was:
 - Undergraduate: 5 papers
 - Master's: 7 papers
 - Ph.D.: 12 papersCertificates for the best paper in each of the above three categories were awarded and an honourable mention in the Ph.D. category was given. The students' enthusiasm and the very high quality of the papers made for an enjoyable and meaningful event.

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