Minutes from the 1st meeting of the Reference Group
TEP 4215 Spring 2013 – Tuesday 5th February

Present:    Sindre G. Tønnessen  2nd year – PuP / EPS
            Håvard S. Skjefstad  3rd year – PuP / EPS
            Daniel I. Ekelund  3rd year – PuP / PuMa
            Mari K. Forsnes  3rd year – PuP / IPK
            Emily Melsæther  4th year – Chemical Engineering
            Truls Gundersen  Lecturer

Absent:    Carina H. Steinbakk  3rd year – EMIL

Comments from the Reference Group:

Lectures:

a) Figures and Technical Terms should be better explained the first time they are used in the lectures.

b) Graphs should be drawn a bit larger with clear definition of axes and tidier.

c) The Lecturer is using digressions which is liked by some and disliked by others.

d) Sometimes it is difficult to grasp where the numbers in figures (such as temperatures) come from.

e) The use of the blackboard could be better structured.

f) It is helpful if/when the lecturer uses references to the text books for each section.
g) Regarding the copies of the slides, it would be helpful with some information about when (weeks/dates) the slides will be used in the lectures.

h) The lectures have a certain element of entertainment, making it easy to stay awake.

Assignments:

i) The 1st Assignment was not covered in Kemp, and this caused problems for those not attending the relevant lectures. Reference Group indicated considerable use of lecture notes while solving the assignments as an alternative to the text books.

j) The Auditorium is not well suited for assignments, however, the choice of room is related to the fact that there is 1 lecture before the assignment sessions.

k) The guiding by the Student Assistants has been good.

l) The proposed solutions to the assignments are quite comprehensive, and are produced for education purposes, not at all to indicate the level of what is expected by the students. The same applies to the solutions available at the Homepage for previous exams. Since the course is a design and design is open-ended, there are many different solutions possible with varying quality.

Text Books:

m) There does not seem to be an extensive use of text books among the students. In the Reference Group 4 were using Smith’s book, while none (of the 5 present) used Kemp’s book. It is surprising that the considerably smaller book by Kemp is 150 NOK more expensive.

n) Perhaps a bit too early to evaluate the text books, so this could be the topic of the next Reference Group meeting.

Relation to other courses:

o) The Mechanical Engineering members of the Reference Group pointed to the fact that the course is linked to the course in Engineering Thermodynamics, and appreciated that the course was related to practical topics, not only theoretical issues.

p) For the member from Chemical Engineering, the course has some of the same elements as a design course and a basic course in Pinch Analysis. In Chemical Engineering (similar to the two text books), the Problem Table Algorithm is used for Energy Targeting as opposed to the Heat Cascade used by the Lecturer.

Information:

q) Initially, some of the students reacted negative to the fact that It’s Learning is not used in the course. This could be a prejudice caused by earlier bad experiences with poor
home pages. The Reference Groups found the Homepage in this course to be useful, however, the design/layout of these pages has scope for improvement 😏.

**Auditorium:**

r) The air quality in the auditorium can be somewhat lower than desired.

Trondheim, 7 February 2013
Truls Gundersen (s)