Abstract. The main trends and tasks entrusted to the staff of the Department of Theoretical and General Electrical Engineering at the current stage of the development of science and education in Ukraine within the Strategic Plan of Development of the Institute of Energy and Control systems of Lviv Polytechnic National University are considered. The importance of historical inheritance of the educational and research activity of the Department, its cooperation with scientists of both domestic and foreign research institutions, and prospects of the development of the Department in the coming years are discussed.

Key words: electrical engineering, educational process, history of science.

Origins of electrical engineering education and science at Lviv Polytechnic National University

Lviv Electrotechnical School has come a long way since its foundation in the late years of the 19th century till now. In spite of the political winds during this period, it has confirmed its high scientific potential, promptly reacting to the challenges of time. Lviv has always been an important political, scientific and industrial center at various authorities attracting the most active and capable people.

It should be noted that at Lviv Polytechnic due to the efforts of enthusiasts, electrical engineering as a separate discipline began to be taught in the 1887/1888 academic year by privat-docent Franciszek Dobrzyński. In 1891/1892, the Department of Electrical Engineering came into existence headed by Professor Roman Dzieślewski. His merit was the creation of a exemplary at that time electrical laboratory where students were provided with great opportunities of doing practical research work.

The importance of the organizational measures introduced at that time can be proved by the fact that Lviv Polytechnic became the seventh educational institution in the world and the fifth one in Europe to start teaching electrical engineering. It was the Department of Electrical Engineering that became the third after the similar at Technical University of Darmstadt (Germany, 1882), University of Missouri (USA, 1886) and Czech Technical University in Prague (Czech Republic, 1902).

Scientific and technical staff trained in the first academic years contributed to the formation of the Lviv Electrotechnical School, which is primarily associated with the name of the successor of Prof. R. Dzyslejewski – Professor Stanislaw Fryze. His contribution to the electrical theory and practice is huge and recognized all over the world. In particular, he developed the theory of transfiguration of electric circuits, the theory of active, passive and imaginary power in electric circuits. He introduced the concept of equivalent electromotive electric power and the system of voltage arrowing, as well as the methods of electric circuits calculation with the help of mesh currents and nodal potentials. Professor Stanislaw Fryze simplified the theory and methods of multiphase systems analysis by introducing the symbolic method that became the basis of modern electrical engineering science.

The grim years of World War II were hard times in the history of the Lviv Electrotechnical School. The revival of its teaching and research activity in the post-war period began due to considerable assistance provided by the Academy of Sciences of the former USSR, Kyiv and Leningrad Polytechnic Institutes, etc.
Such outstanding scientists as academicians O. Kharkiveych, G. Pukhov, professors Yu. Velychko, K. Karandseyev, M. Kyianytysa and others expressed the wish to work at Lviv polytechnic.

In 1946 the Electrical Engineering Department was headed by Doctor of Technical Sciences, Professor Oleksandr Kharkiveych – electroacoustic, alumnus of the Leningrad Scientific School who had a positive influence on the formation of the renewed department. Having united the gifted young scientists and engineers, despite the difficult post-war time, he managed to organize the educational process in September 1944. However, his research interests were focused mainly on the research into electrical acoustics, the theory of physical converters (sensors), theory of communications, information theory, the theory of signal processing and other fields of technology. For the high achievements in this field of knowledge, Professor Kharkiveych was elected a correspondent member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, and subsequently appointed Director of the Institute of Problems of Information Transmission of the USSR and academician as of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

In 1948 the Department of Theoretical and General Electrical Engineering was headed for a short time by an alumnus of Tomsk Polytechnic Institute, Candidate of Technical Sciences, associate professor Georgiy Pukhov. He focused on raising the level of the educational process, organizing scientific seminars at the Department, prompt publication of scientific papers.

Alumnus of pre-war Lviv Polytechnic, Doctor of Technical Sciences, Professor Mykola Maksymovych headed the Department in 1950–1964. He was a versatile personality who significantly influenced the development of education and science in Western Ukraine.

Holding the post of rector at Lviv Polytechnic Institute, later rector of Ivan Franko Lviv State University, he considerably enriched the scientific achievements of the Department, expanded the training of scientific and pedagogical staff of the Department, in particular through postgraduate studies. Together with Prof. B. Blazhkevych, he is one of the most prominent representatives of the Lviv Electrotechnical School.

During 1964–1975 the Department of Theoretical and General Electrical Engineering was headed by Candidate of Technical Sciences, Associate Professor Serafym Kirpatovsky, a graduate of Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute. He was focused on the scientific works devoted to the creation and improvement of converters and complex measuring instruments for selective measurement of individual components of multicomponent streams on the basis of Engineering Research Laboratory № 47 founded at the Department of Theoretical and General Electrical Engineering in 1964.

In 1975 1986 under the leadership of the Head of the Department, associate professor Oleksandr Shehedyn, graduate of Lviv Polytechnic Institute, computerization of educational process was initiated, and appropriate mathematical methods of modeling and computer simulation were developed.
In October 1986 D. Sc., Professor Volodymyr Perkhach became the Head of the Department. The ten-year period of his work was devoted to particularly intensive scientific and pedagogical activity, aimed to form the theoretical and methodological foundations for providing educational process in electrical power engineering disciplines and publishing relevant textbooks and manuals.

On the basis of the Department in September 1995 the First International Scientific and Technical Conference “Mathematical Modelling in Electrical and Power Engineering” was held.

New stage of development of electrical engineering education and science at Lviv Polytechnic

As the development of industry during the post-war years gathered pace, technically qualified experts in electrical engineering were needed. To satisfy that demand, the organization of electrical engineering education at Lviv Polytechnic required continuous improvement. At the same time, the organizational structure of the Lviv Electrotechnical School has been changed (Fig. 1). Now it is one of the schools working at the Institute of Electric Power Engineering and Control systems (Fig. 2).

A new stage in the development of the Department of Theoretical and General Electrical Engineering began after its being headed in autumn 1996 by Doctor of Technical Sciences, Professor Petro Stakhiv, a disciple of Prof. Mykola Maksymovych. Before, he headed the Department of Theoretical Fundamentals of Electrical Radio Engineering at the Ivan Franko Lviv State University.

New textbooks and manuals for students, as well as scientific monographs have been published during this time. Dozens of instructions, methodical guidelines for laboratory works and course projects have been developed, published and implemented into the educational process. Given the high authority the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine commissioned the Department to annually hold (1997–2004) the second (final) stage of the All-Ukrainian student contest of Theoretical Fundamentals of electrical engineering.

For the quality and objectivity of the contest, the department was highly appreciated by the participants from all over Ukraine. Practical tasks tested and verified during numerous contests were included into the first (2004) and the second (2014) parts of the textbooks in theoretical electrical engineering.

The Department is actively introducing computer methods of learning into the educational process. In particular, a laboratory has been founded and methodological support in fundamentals of microprocessor equipment (assoc. prof Orest Hamola) has been developed, a cycle of simulation laboratory works on the theory of electric circuits (prof. P. Stakhiv, prof. O. Hoholyuk) has been introduced into the educational process.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2
S. Rendzinyak) has been introduced. Software and methodical recommendations concerning the students’ using of computer means while preparing individual tasks have been developed by assoc. prof. Mariya Howykovych. This was largely facilitated by creation of a modern computer laboratory at the Department, equipped with the assistance of the University administration and the Directorate of the Institute of Electric Power Engineering and Control Systems.

Laboratory lesson is conducted by Prof. S. Rendzinyak (2017)

In recent years, the Department has significantly enhanced the quality of training research staff of higher qualification. This is facilitated by the active functioning of the Specialized Scientific Council for the defence of Doctoral and PhD theses in electrical engineering disciplines chaired by prof. P. Stakhiv since 1995. During that time, Doctoral theses were defended by V. Malyar, V. Hudym, S. Rendzinyak, O. Hoholyuk, and Ph.D. theses by V. Horiachko, V. Maday and Yu. Kozak. Scientific research is carried out in the following fields:

- methods and models of computer analysis of electric circuits and electromechanical systems;
- mathematical modelling of processes of dynamic circles and electric systems with different type elements;
- macromodelling of electronic, electric and power systems;
- mathematical modelling of processes in the electromagnetic field;
- developing an automated learning system in the field of electrical engineering.

An important achievement of the Department during this period is the international cooperation. Thus, together with Polish scholars, the joint Ukrainian-Polish school-seminars “Actual problems of theoretical electrical engineering: science and didactics” were conducted in Alushta (Ukraine, 1999, 2001) and in Solina (Poland, 2000). Besides, two International seminars “Computational Problems of Electrical Engineering” were held under the auspices of IEEE in Zakopane (Poland) in 2002 and near Buchach (Ukraine) in 2003. Czech and Slovak scientists have now joined the collaboration, and with our joint efforts made, the international scientific and technical conferences “Computational Problems of Electrical Engineering” (CPEE) are regularly organized. The scientists of the Department took part in the work of all those conferences, since the first in 1999, as organizers and co-organizers (Fig. 3).

The Main tasks of electrical engineering education and science

In recent years, fundamental educational reforms are taking place in Ukraine, in particular, it concerns higher educational institutions. A task set before the institutions of higher education is that to improve significantly the cooperation of Ukrainian education and science with the world one.

UPSS 1999 – Alushta, Ukraine
UPSS 2000 – Solina, Poland
UPSS 2001 – Alushta, Ukraine
CPEE 2002 – Zakopane, Poland
CPEE 2003 – Jazleevets, Ukraine
CPEE 2004 – Zakopane, Poland
CPEE 2006 – Odessa, Ukraine
CPEE 2007 – Wilkasy, Poland
CPEE 2008 – Alushta, Ukraine
CPEE 2009 – Waplewo, Poland
CPEE 2010 – Lázň Kynžvat, Czech Republic
CPEE 2011 – Kostryna, Ukraine
CPEE 2012 – Grybow, Poland
CPEE 2013 – Roztoky u Křivoklátu, Czech Republic
CPEE 2014 – Terechovâ-Vertá dolina, Slovak Republic
CPEE 2015 – Lviv, Ukraine
CPEE 2016 – Sandomierz, Poland
CPEE 2017 – Kutná Hora, Czech Republic
CPEE 2018 – Banská Štiavnica, Slovak Republic
CPEE 2019 – Slavské - Lviv, Ukraine
CPEE 2020 – Příbram, Czech Republic

Fig. 3

In response to the challenges of time, since September 2019, the Department of Theoretical and General Electrical Engineering has been headed by D.Sc., associate professor Oksana Hoholyuk. Now the department is to fulfill goals, tasks and achieve high specific values of indicators according to the Strategic Plan of Development of the Institute of Electric Power Engineering and Control Systems of Lviv Polytechnic National University.

To encourage talented youth to study at the University, it is necessary to provide a student-centered
approach to educational activities. This goal can be accomplished by improving the teaching and learning processes, introducing new technologies, training methodologies, placing of electronic educational and methodical complexes of all disciplines in the Virtual Educational Environment. It is necessary to introduce various forms of context and problematic learning, as well as (inclusion of) research components into educational courses.

The important task of the integration of educational programs is the use of training programs for specialists, first of all Masters, materials of educational courses of distance education of the world's leading universities, as well as the experience of research centers of leading companies for the purpose of forming an open educational environment and integration into international educational space.

The department is developing on-line courses of certain disciplines to provide distance learning students with advanced training.

To improve the learning and research work outcomes, it is necessary to increase the proportion of students able to take subjects delivered in a foreign language preferably English as a medium of instruction. To attract international students to the idea of studying at Lviv Polytechnic, some educational programs are required to be taught in English.

The important achievements of the Department to be supported and developed is that our students become the winners of the final stage of the All-Ukrainian contests of theoretical fundamentals of theoretical electrical engineering and general electrical engineering.

To enhance the quality of teaching and research staff, it is necessary to increase the percentage of young scientists of the highest qualification for the creation and development of research schools.

Besides, it is important to continue the practice of publishing scientific publications in editions of Scientometric databases such as Scopus and Web of Science. in order to increase the number of scientists who have at least five cited publications.

Another important task set before the Department is to increase the number of published monographs, papers and conference abstracts in the English language. The authority of our researchers and the demand for research results is evidenced by the increase in the h-indices of the department faculty in the Scopus and Web of Science databases, as well as the growth of the number of articles published by our academic staff. One of the primary tasks is to create professional profiles of the Institute lecturers in the ResearchGate system and other systems of this kind in order to promote their scientific achievements.

The Department publishes the professional and scientific journal “Computational Problems of Electrical Engineering”. Our goal is to be included into the Scopus and Web of Science databases. Under the same title the scientific conference mentioned above is held under the auspices of the IEEE and organized by the Department of Theoretical and General Electrical Engineering and Institute of Electric Power Engineering and Control Systems. This Conference have been held for more than 20 years as the international scientific and practical event launched back in 1999 by scientists of the Department and our colleagues from Warsaw University of Technology. The proceedings of this Conference have been indexed in the Scopus database for a long time. We need to keep this tradition.

Deepening cooperation with academic institutions of Ukraine, attracting leading scientists of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine to conducting scientific seminars is also of great importance.
Представляя доклади ведучих учених, професорів діяльності наукової розвитку в нерозрахунку на студентів але також для колегів – вчених і лекторів. На цих семінарах, вони продемонструють результати своїх досліджень відповідно до останніх п'ятьох років і аналізують глобальні тенденції в розвитку науки, як у масових, так і в нових обласних сферах.

В рамках академічної активності, є необхіднимою участь в розвитку інновацій, в прогнозуванні інтересів науковців на основі перспективних та нових областей. Підприємницька діяльність у системі національної науки в Алматі підтримується до подальшого видатного розвитку.

Помічники, які мають важливі завдання, не мають можливості виконувати свої інновації без участь у рамках наукового розвитку інтересів. Але відбувається так, що для ведення виступу, відбуваються зміни, які зазнають в розподілі інтересів, і аналізуються глобальні тенденції в розвитку науки, як у масових, так і в нових областях.

Підприємницька діяльність та участь у розвитку інновацій нерозрахунку на студентів але також для колегів – вчених і лекторів. На цих семінарах, вони продемонструють результати своїх досліджень відповідно до останніх п'ятьох років і аналізують глобальні тенденції в розвитку науки, як у масових, так і в нових областях.
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