



REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vol. 7, No. 2

Fall 2005

The ABET Board of Directors met on October 29, 2005 at the Bahia Resort and Hotel in San Diego, California. This report summarizes the actions that occurred at that meeting.

ABET OFFICERS INSTALLED

The 2005-2006 ABET Executive Committee was installed:

President	Richard C. Seagrave
President - Elect	William S. Clark
Past - President	Richard O. Anderson
Secretary	James H. Dooley
Treasurer	Allen I. Ormsbee
Board Representatives	James R. Plasker (ACSM) Roger M. Zimmerman (NSPE)

ENGINEERING CHANGE: A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF EC2000 RESULTS UNVEILED

The results of the longitudinal study on the impact of EC2000 was presented to the ABET Board by **Lisa Lattuca**, **Patrick Terenzini**, and **Fred Volkwein**, researchers from the Center for the Study of Higher Education at Penn State. The researchers stated that this was the first national assessment of outcomes-based accreditation criteria. The study provides a baseline for ongoing evaluation of EC2000, as well as to provide a mechanism to assess the effectiveness of ABET's outcomes-based accreditation criteria on the other ABET programs, including computing, engineering technology and applied science. The study included input from students, alumni, faculty, program chairs, deans and employers.

The report included significant findings on the generally positive impact of EC2000 on programs, the student's experiences and the learning outcomes. The researchers are preparing an executive summary and the full report of the study will be submitted in March 2006.

PARTICIPATION PROJECT UPDATE

Representatives from Cardea Communications reported on Phase II of the Participation Project. The objective of the Participation Project is to design a comprehensive and effective program that optimizes use of the expertise and experience of volunteer professionals who participate in ABET's outcomes-based accreditation process.

In Phase II, design teams, composed of Commissioners, Board members, and Society staff, developed proposals for enhanced recruitment and selection, training, evaluation, and continuous improvement. The overall goal of the design teams was to improve the selection of PEVs, improve the quality of the training, and establish evaluation criteria that demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement, while providing clearly defined rubrics for recognition, remediation and removal. The Participation Project Team presented a timeline for piloting and implementing the recommendations. Over the next few months, ABET and Cardea will be piloting some of these proposals with and examining the feasibility of the design teams' preliminary recommendations. The following societies will be represented in the pilot: American Academy of Environmental Engineers (AAEE), American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES), CSAB Incorporated (CSAB), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE), Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE), and The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society (TMS).

In addition, the ABET Board of Directors ratified the decision of the ABET Executive Committee to refer the proposal of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) on Distance PEV Training to the Participation Project team for consideration as it moves forward.

COMPETENCY MODEL APPROVED

The Board approved the use of a Competency Model for program evaluator recruitment, selection, training, evaluation, and recognition. The Volunteer Participation Project team developed a competency model that encompasses the knowledge, skills, and abilities of highly successful evaluators (PEV). The Competency Model is intended to assist both ABET Member Societies and ABET itself by providing a set of minimum criteria which PEV's should demonstrate and by which they should be assessed. It is the fundamental basis for process improvements recommended for the Participation Project and the link between each component of the project. This competency model will be incorporated into the ABET Rules of Procedure.

ABET FELLOWS NAMED

Recipients of the ABET Fellow were honored at the Annual Meeting Awards Banquet. **Susan E. Conry, Larry A. Kaye, Larry D. Nixon, and Stuart H. Zweben** joined the ranks of ABET Fellows.

DIVERSITY SHOWS SOME IMPROVEMENT

President **Richard Anderson** presented ABET's Diversity Scorecard. Overall, statistics were consistent with last year's.

STRATEGIC ISSUES REVIEWED

Associate Executive Director **Kathryn Aberle** reviewed ABET's strategy making process. The report illustrated how ABET is addressing one aspect of ABET's Strategic Issue #4: Globalization of the Professions - industries, the workforce, education, and practice. The Board requested that the status on ABET's progress on addressing other strategic issues be presented at the next meeting.

POSSIBLE FINANCIAL MODEL PRESENTED

Finance Committee Chair **Dan Bradley** presented a financial model which more properly assigns operating costs to ABET's activities, and proposed a re-examination of the impact of this on the relationship between revenue sources and expenditures. The President noted that the Executive Committee has asked that a task force be appointed to examine this and to propose a new financial model, with serious consideration given to alternatives, such as that presented by IEEE.

PROPOSALS FROM ABET MEMBER SOCIETIES REFERRED

The Board also confirmed the ABET Executive Committee decision to refer the proposal submitted by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) on Co-Lead Society Arrangements to the Accreditation Council for consideration and for its applicability across the Commissions.

FEASIBILITY OF ASSISTING ENGINEERING WORKFORCE COMMISSION (EWC)

The ABET Board approved, in principle, exploring the feasibility of assisting the Engineering Workforce Commission (EWC) of the American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES) in expanding its survey portfolio to include the computing and applied sciences professions.

ABET CONCLUDES FY2005

Treasurer **Al Ormsbee** presented the draft audited Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ending September 2005 which showed ABET with an increase of net assets of \$119,330. Treasurer Ormsbee reported that ABET has adequate funds to support operations for FY2006.

STATEMENT ON HARMONIZATION FOR THE COMMISSIONS RATIFIED

The ABET Board of Directors approved a position statement on harmonization:

ABET believes in the value of the Commissions presenting a uniform face to ABET institutions, societies and the public. Any proposal regarding ABET criteria, policies, reports and statements should be reviewed with the goal of harmonization across commissions.

The ABET Board of Directors charges the Accreditation Council and the Commission Chairs with developing a plan and milestones for the harmonization of existing draft and final statements, self-study forms and criteria documents and materials which would be completed no later than fall 2006 Board of Directors meeting. The first priority should be harmonization of those documents viewed by the institutions and the public with internal documents to follow.

ABET INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDS INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

President- Elect, **Richard Seagrave** presented to the Board a report from the ABET Industry Advisory Council (IAC) on its response to the International Activities Council's white paper on ABET's role in international accreditation. The IAC strongly recommended that "ABET pursue a strategy of world leadership in international accreditation of technical educational programs that results in graduates who are prepared to enter the practice of their professions in a global and culturally diverse workplace."

REPORT ON WASHINGTON ACCORD

International Activities Council (INTAC) Vice-Chair, **Winfred Phillips** reported on the 2005 Biennial Meeting of the Washington Accord. The Signatories approved Taiwan and Korea as provisional members and a proposal for a Permanent Secretariat with a request for proposals in June 2006. He also informed the Board that Engineers Australia was re-appointed as Chair of the Accord and ABET as the Secretariat. Phillips also reported that ABET would be the host of the next biennial meeting of the signatories in 2007.

PLANS FOR ABET INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION APPROVED

International Activities Council (INTAC) Chair, **Ed Parrish** presented the final report on the INTAC White Paper on ABET's International Role in the Future. The ABET Board of Directors unanimously approved proceeding with developing the plan for international accreditation, which will continue to honor existing Mutual Recognition Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding and phase out substantial equivalence evaluations.

COMMISSIONS REPORT ON THE 2004-05 ACCREDITATION CYCLE

The Commissions reported that 664 programs were evaluated during the 2004-05 accreditation cycle. Of that number, 485 programs were visited and 179 interim reports were reviewed. As of October 1, 2005, there were 2728 accredited programs at 571 institutions. Both TAC and ASAC have seen a decline in the number accredited programs, while EAC and CAC have shown gains.

NEW COMMISSION OFFICERS

The Board ratified the elections of the Commission Officers and Executive Committee members, who will take office in July 2006, including:

ASAC Chair-Elect **Ralph Hodek**
CAC Chair-Elect **Stuart Zweben**
EAC Chair-Elect **Mary Leigh Wolfe**
TAC Chair-Elect **Michael Robinson**

The following were previously approved as Chair-Elect for the 2004-05 cycle and will take office as chair of their respective commission in July 2006:

ASAC Chair **Michael S. Bisesi**
CAC Chair **Lawrence Jones**
EAC Chair **Gerald Jakubowski**
TAC Chair **Anthony Brizendine**

2005-2006 CRITERIA APPROVED

The following criteria were approved for the 2006-2007 accreditation cycle:

ASAC:

- Revision of Program Criteria for Safety Programs

TAC:

- Program Criteria for Aeronautical Engineering Technology Programs, Surveying/Geomatics Engineering Technology Programs, and Electromechanical Engineering Technology Programs

BOARD APPROVES CRITERIA FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

The following criteria were approved for publication for review and comment.

CAC:

- General Criteria for Computer Science Programs, Information Systems Programs and Information Technology Programs.

EAC:

- Program Criteria for Biologically-related Engineering Programs
- Revision to the General Criteria for Advanced Level Programs
- Extension of Public Comment Period for Program Criteria for Mechatronics Engineering Programs

ASAC TO ACCREDIT PROGRAMS UNDER GENERAL CRITERIA

The Board approved an amendment to the Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual to allow ASAC to accredit programs under general criteria where there are no applicable ASAC Program Criteria.

WHITE PAPER ON FRAUDULENT CREDENTIALS PRESENTED

The United States Council on International Engineering Practice's (USCIEP) concerns about the increasing number of false academic degrees and altered or fake professional credentials listed on resumes was presented for information. The paper outlines the issues and the importance of ABET's ECEI in identifying false or misrepresented educational credentials.

ABET WITHDRAWS FROM CESB AND USCIEP

The ABET Board ratified the Executive Committee's decision to withdraw from the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB). The ABET Executive Committee concluded that there was insufficient congruency between the mission of ABET and the stated purpose of CESB.

The ABET Board of Directors also ratified the decision of the ABET Executive Committee to withdraw from the United States Council for International Engineering Practice (USCIEP) effective immediately. The Executive Committee based its decision on the review of the overall effectiveness of the organization, and the costs of participating, both in time and resources.

INSTITUTIONAL FEES RAISED 4%

The Board received the Five-year Financial Forecast. Expected increases in costs resulted in the approval of increases in fees for the institutions, effective for 2006-07 accreditation cycle. The Board also approved the additional accreditation fee when one evaluator covers a two-plus-two engineering technology program be changed from its current amount to \$300 for the additional program. This fee change applies when a single report is prepared.

WHISTLE BLOWER POLICY ESTABLISHED

A recommendation was submitted to the ABET Board to amend the ABET Rules of Procedure which states that the directors, other volunteers and staff of ABET, its Member Societies and Associate Member Societies, commit to the highest ethical and professional conduct and agree to report concerns regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters by establishing a Whistleblower Policy.

AUDIT COMMITTEE APPROVED

The ABET Board of Directors approved an amendment to the ABET Bylaws to establish an Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall assist the ABET Board in fulfilling its responsibility to monitor the reliability and integrity of the accounting and financial reporting. The Audit Committee is charged with approving the appointment, compensation, retention (and termination) of the independent auditors, and with overseeing the work of the independent auditors.

ABET AUDITOR FOR FY 2006-2008 CHOSEN

The ABET Board of Directors retained Shapiro and Duffalo, P.C. as the auditing firm for FY 2006 through 2008 with a renewable three year maximum term.

POLICY STATEMENT ON LICENSURE AND LICENSURE RELATED CERTIFICATION APPROVED

The ABET Board of Directors approved a policy statement proposed by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) and the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and endorsed by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The policy statement reads:

ABET encourages graduates of ABET accredited programs and other educationally qualified persons who work or practice in the applied sciences, computing, engineering, and technology professions to strive for professional recognition by enhancing their individual credentials through licensure and certification programs. Licensure and certification are among the recognized methods of demonstrating to the public an individual's competency, qualification and expertise in professional practice. Moreover, licensure and licensure related certification provide a commitment to the understanding of professional, ethical, and societal responsibilities, and emphasize the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare within society.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS WITHDRAW FROM ABET

ABET President Rich Anderson informed the Board of Directors that the Association for Iron and Steel (AIST) and the American Society for Quality (ASQ) have withdrawn from ABET.

BOARD MEMBERS RETIRE

President Richard Anderson and the Board acknowledged the contributions of retiring Board members, and presented them with plaques commemorating their service. Retiring members included **William A. Welsh, Jr.** (ASCE), **William G. Howard** (ASME) **Robert L. Cannon** (CSAB), **R. Michael Lockerd** (IEEE), **Michael S. Leonard** (IIE) and **John D. Lorenz** (2003-2004 ABET President).

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At the conclusion of the 2004-2005 Board meeting, the 2005-2006 Board members were seated. The new Board members included **Beverly Withiam** (ASCE), **Frank A. Gourley** (ASME), **Patrick J. Walsh** (CSAB), **C. Rick Jones** (HPS), **Willis K. King** (IEEE), **Arnold M. Peskin** (IEEE), **Susan O. Schall** (IIE), **Sylvia Alexander** (Public Member), and **Edwin G. Wiggins** (SNAME).

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next ABET Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 17 & 18, 2006, at the BWI Airport Marriott Hotel, Baltimore, MD.

Submitted by

George D. Peterson, Executive Director

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