



# REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vol. 8, No. 2

Fall 2006

The ABET Board of Directors met on October 28, 2006, at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, Tampa, Florida. This report summarizes the actions that occurred at that meeting.

## ABET OFFICERS INSTALLED

The 2006-2007 ABET Officers were installed:

President	<b>William S. Clark</b>
President-Elect	<b>L.S. "Skip" Fletcher</b>
Past President	<b>Richard C. Seagrave</b>
Secretary	<b>Janet Perper</b>
Treasurer	<b>Daniel Bradley</b>

## PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE (PAVE) LAUNCHED

Participation Project Advisory Committee Chair **Larry Kaye** presented to the Board the review of the Partnership to Advance Volunteer Excellence (PAVE) kick-off meeting. The kick-off meeting was held on August 30, 2006, in Baltimore, MD. PAVE is the implementation phase of the Participation Project approved by the ABET Board in fall 2004. The ABET Board of Directors accepted the Advisory Committee's report, which included the recommendations to 1) establish a PAVE steering team; 2) utilize a phased implementation strategy; 3) develop a communications strategy; and 4) establish a formal continuous improvement/feedback process.

## ABET AWARD RECIPIENTS NAMED

Recipients of the Linton E. Grinter Distinguished Service Award and ABET Fellow Award were honored at the Annual Meeting Awards Banquet. **Jerry R. Yeargan** was named the Linton E. Grinter Distinguished Service Award winner and **Patricia D. Daniels, Robert A. Herrick, David K. Holger, and Doris K. Lidtke** joined the ranks of ABET Fellows.

## PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

President Seagrave announced that the 2006 President's Award for Diversity was presented during the Commission Summit on October 25, 2006. The recipients of the award were the **College of Engineering and Computing at Florida International University**, the **Ivan G. Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems at Pace University**, and the **College of Engineering at the University of Texas at El Paso**.

He also talked about plans to establish an ABET Academic Advisory Council, which would follow the successful model of the ABET Industry Advisory Council. An Academic Advisory Council will provide additional opportunities for ABET to work closely with this important stakeholder group. He encouraged the Board to submit recommendations and suggestions regarding the formation of the council.

President Seagrave reminded members that ABET is seeking input on the issue of dual level accreditation of engineering programs. A survey is available on the ABET website. Responses are requested prior to the end of December 2006.

## STRATEGIC ISSUES REVIEW UPDATE

**President-Elect William Clark** presented the results of the strategic issues review exercise done in March 2006. His report included a slide presentation analyzing the outcomes of the exercise, which was intended to help the Board leadership determine the relevance and immediacy of current strategic issues. The Board will address the issues at its next meeting in March 2007. That meeting will include an extra half-day session for strategizing.

## NEW FINANCIAL MODEL PRESENTED

Financial Model Task Force Chair **John Lorenz** presented the task force's final report and recommendations. The ABET Board of Directors approved the following recommendations from the task force:

- *Approve the financial model in principle;*
- *Direct the Finance Committee to develop the FY 2007-2008 budget based on the model for presentation to the ABET Board of Directors for consideration at its March 2007 meeting; and*

- *Direct the Finance Committee to draft specific language to incorporate the model into the ABET Financial Policies and ABET Rules of Procedure for consideration at the ABET Board meeting in March 2007.*

### **FINANCIAL POLICY AMENDED**

The Finance Committee recommended changes to the ABET Rules of Procedure Financial Policy 21 Special Projects to clarify the approval process for special projects and new initiatives. The ABET Board amended the proposal and limited the authority of the Executive Committee with respect to approval of budgets for special projects.

### **ABET CONCLUDES FY2006**

Treasurer **Allen Ormsbee** presented the draft financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006. These statements include a deferral of recognition of ECEI revenue until the file is completed and cost-containment measures implemented by the staff and volunteers. Treasurer Ormsbee reported that ABET concluded the year better than expected and has adequate funds to support operations for FY2007.

### **INSTITUTION ACCREDITATION FEES RAISED**

The Board received the five-year financial forecast from the Finance Committee. The Board approved an increase in fees for institutions, effective for 2007-2008 accreditation cycle.

### **ABET CREDENTIALS EVALUATION SERVICE (ECEI) SUSPENDED**

The ABET Board of Directors approved a motion to suspend ABET's credentials evaluation service (ECEI) and establish a timetable of related steps to include disposition of current applications and cessation of new applications. The ABET staff is developing transition processes to execute the Board's directive.

### **INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION MOVES FORWARD**

The ABET Board of Directors approved a motion to proceed with international accreditation. In October 2005, the ABET Board of Directors approved the development of the plan for international accreditation, which would continue to honor existing Mutual Recognition Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding and phase out substantial equivalency evaluations.

### **COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH ISRAELI COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION APPROVED**

The Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ABET and the Council for Higher Education Israel. Within the MOU, ABET agreed to collaborate in the development of accreditation workshops and seminars on evaluation and accreditation. The MOU does not extend to the recognition of Israeli programs or graduates.

### **NEW COMMISSION OFFICERS**

The Board ratified the elections of the officers and Executive Committee members of the commissions for the 2007-2008 accreditation cycle. The following Chairs and Chairs-Elect will take office in July 2007:

#### **ASAC**

- Chair: **Ralph Hodek**
- Chair-Elect: **J. Turner Hughey**

#### **CAC**

- Chair: **Stuart Zweben**
- Chair-Elect: **Gayle Yaverbaum**

#### **EAC**

- Chair: **Mary Leigh Wolfe**
- Chair-Elect: **John (Jack) Rutherford**

#### **TAC**

- Chair-Elect: **Mohammad Zahraee**
- Chair: **Michael Robinson**

### **2007-2008 CRITERIA CHANGES APPROVED**

The following criteria changes were approved for the 2007-2008 accreditation cycle:

#### **EAC:**

- New Program Criteria for Biological Engineering and revised Program Criteria for Agricultural Engineering; and Chemical, Biochemical, and Biomolecular Engineering.

## PROPOSED CRITERIA CHANGES APPROVED FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

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

### CAC:

- Revisions to Criterion 1 of the General Criteria for Computing Programs.

### EAC:

- Revisions to the General Criteria for Basic-Level Engineering Programs
- Revisions to the General Criteria for Advanced-Level Engineering Programs
- Revisions to the Program Criteria for Civil Engineering Programs and Mechanical Engineering Programs

### TAC:

- Revisions to the Program Criteria for Mechanical Engineering Technology Programs and Air Conditioning Engineering Technology Programs

## ACCREDITATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL REVISED

The Board approved the revision to the Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual to change references from “basic-level and advanced-level” programs to “bachelor’s and master’s”. in. The revision will be implemented for the 2007-2008 accreditation cycle

## ABET TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP TO SYDNEY AND DUBLIN ACCORDS

The ABET Board of Directors approved the recommendation of the Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) for ABET to apply for membership to the Sydney and Dublin Accords. These agreements, modeled on the Washington Accord, are with accrediting organizations in other countries that accredit engineering technology programs.

## BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP PROCESS REVISED

The ABET Board of Directors approved amendments to the ABET Bylaws to change the process by which the members of the Nominating Committee and Finance Committee are determined based on the number of programs for which the society is responsible. This ensures that societies of all sizes are represented on these committees.

## BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ADDED

The ABET Board of Directors approved the amendment to the ABET Bylaws to include the Accreditation Council Chair as a non-voting member of the Board Executive Committee. In the past, the Accreditation Council Chair has been invited to the Executive Committee and Board meetings as a matter of courtesy.

The Board Executive Committee consists of the immediate Past President, the President, the President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and the two Board Representatives. The Chairs of the commissions, Chair of the Accreditation Council, and Chair of the International Activities Council (INTAC) are non-voting members. The Executive Committee acts on behalf of the Board in the interim between meetings.

## BOARD MEMBERS RETIRE

President Richard Seagrave and the Board acknowledged the contributions of retiring Board members and presented them with plaques commemorating their service. Retiring members included **Daina M. Briedis** (AIChE), **John A. Weese** (ASEE), **Gerald E. Engel** (CSAB), **Bruce A. Eisenstein** (IEEE), **Thomas E. Kenney** (SAE), **J. Dale Pounds** (SME), **James H. Dooley** (ABET Secretary), **Allen I. Ormsbee** (ABET Treasurer), and **Richard O. Anderson** (2004-2005 ABET President).

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At the conclusion of the 2005-2006 Board meeting, the 2006-2007 Board members were seated. The new Board members included **David Holger** (AIAA), **Jeffrey Siirola** (AIChE), **Robert Herrick** (AIHA), **Karan Watson** (ASEE), **Murali Varanasi** (CSAB), **Sherra Kerns** (IEEE), **Kenneth Rennels** (SAE), **Wilbur Meier, Jr.** (SME), and **Ronald Hinn, Jr.** (SPE).

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

Spring 2007 ABET Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday - Saturday, March 16 - 17, 2007  
BWI Airport Marriott Hotel  
Baltimore, MD

Fall 2007 ABET Board of Directors Meeting  
Saturday, October 27, 2007  
Lake Tahoe, Nevada

Submitted by  
**George D. Peterson**, Executive Director  
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