



REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Spring 2006

The ABET Board of Directors met on March 17-18, 2006, at the BWI Airport Marriott Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. This report summarizes the actions that occurred at that meeting.

ABET OFFICERS ELECTED

The newly elected members of the 2006-2007 ABET Executive Committee are:

President-Elect	L.S. "Skip" Fletcher
Secretary	Janet Perper
Treasurer	Daniel Bradley
Board Representative	Larry Kaye

These individuals will take office at the conclusion of the October 28, 2006, Board of Directors meeting. At that time, **William Clark** will become President, **Richard Seagrave** will become Past President, and **James Plasker** will continue as one of two Board Representatives to the Executive Committee.

PUBLIC MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ABET BOARD ELECTED

Amy O'Leary and **Barbara Martin** were re-elected as Public Directors on the Board.

PUBLIC MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSIONS ELECTED

ASAC	Linda Biemer , Dean and Professor Emerita
CAC	David Herrington , CEO of consulting/industrial services company, Herrington Group, Inc.
EAC	Herbert Richtol , Part-time Program Director at the National Science Foundation
TAC	Patricia Ladewig , Professor and Academic Dean of the School for Health Care Professions

These individuals will begin working with the commissions in July 2006.

ABET BYLAWS AMENDED

The ABET Board of Directors approved on 2nd reading an amendment to the ABET Bylaws to establish an Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibility to monitor the reliability and integrity of ABET's accounting and financial reporting. The Audit Committee is charged with approving the appointment, compensation, and retention (and termination) of the independent auditors and with overseeing their work.

The ABET Board also approved on 1st reading changes in the Bylaws for review and comment regarding the composition of membership of the Nominating Committee and Finance Committee, and the addition of the Accreditation Council Chair to the ABET Board Executive Committee. The proposed changes to the Nominating and Finance Committee will ensure that all societies of all sizes will be equitably represented.

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

President **Richard Seagrave** gave a status report on his presidential priorities:

- Diversity
- Participation Project
- Financial Model
- Harmonization
- International Accreditation

President Seagrave spoke briefly on the stagnant enrollments in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology programs. He thanked the Board for their response to his letter asking members of the Board to interact with their society's appropriate educational leaders to determine what specific plans are underway to increase the diversity of ABET's program evaluator pool, commission representatives, the ABET Board, and, possibly, the society leadership itself. A complete report of the responses will be posted on the Board secure website.

PARTICIPATION PROJECT UPDATE

ABET Executive Director **George Peterson** discussed the Participation Project. He stated that more effective program evaluator (PEV) training was necessary. He also provided each attendee with a sample of the recruiting materials that are being piloted. There was discussion on the best way to handle under-performing PEVs. Several Board members questioned the role of societies within PEV training. Peterson said that he did not foresee training responsibilities being removed from ABET societies and that the ABET staff would serve only as a source of support.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Peterson spoke to the Board on improved communications efforts. He provided an overview of both the public and secure ABET websites, which will serve as major sources of communication, along with instructions on how to obtain a username and password for the secure site. He plans to post on the secure website information and reports from the International Accreditation Task Group, the society responses regarding diversity, and news on the Participation Project. Each Board member will be notified by e-mail of these postings. Peterson also discussed his willingness to attend upcoming society Board of Directors, education committee, and department head meetings and provide these audiences with updates on current projects. Executive Director Peterson ended his message by remarking upon the significance of the recent public release of the executive summary of *Engineering Change: A Study of the Impact of EC2000*.

FY 2004-2005 ENDS ON POSITIVE NOTE

ABET Treasurer Allen Ormsbee presented the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending September 2005, and the Financial Statements for the period ending December 2005. Instead of the projected deficit ABET closes FY 05 with more than \$100,000 going to reserves.

BOARD APPROVES RENUMBERED CRITERIA FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

The ABET Board approved the renumbering of the criteria for accrediting applied science, computing, engineering, and technology programs. The approval enabled incorporation of needed changes in self-study forms and training materials and will apply to institutions up for accreditation in the 2007-2008 cycle. Review and comments on these editorial changes will be received until September 22, 2006.

COMMISSIONERS APPROVED

The ASAC, CAC, EAC, and TAC commissioners for 2006-2007 were approved.

REPORTS OF THE BOARD LIAISONS TO THE COMMISSIONS

Board Liaisons to CAC and EAC submitted their report to the ABET Board. Board Liaison to CAC, **Susan Schall**, presented the CAC report. She informed the Board that CAC has been experiencing tremendous growth. The proposed changes to the CAC general criteria, approved for review and comment by the ABET Board in fall 2005, will be piloted during the 2006-2007 cycle. She reported that members of the CAC Executive Committee and ABET Accreditation Director, **Daniel Hodge**, are working collaboratively to harmonize the criteria and supporting documents. The CAC is also working with the EAC in an effort to update forms and training materials for the upcoming team chair training session, which will be held in July 2006 to support the new criteria.

The Board Liaison to EAC, **Daniel Turner**, submitted his report to the Board. He reported on the continued growth in the number of accredited engineering programs, the number of issues under consideration, and the opportunities to enhance the accreditation process.

PUBLIC MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORT

Amy O'Leary, Public Director, presented the Public Member Committee report. The report included activities of the Public Member Committee from 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. She briefly talked about the committee's proposed activities for 2005-2006, which include developing a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" specific to Public Members, reviewing the list of ABET strategic issues, conducting research on how to incorporate diversity into the criteria, and participating in observer visits in the fall of 2006.

The Committee also submitted the following recommendations for public members of the commissions:

- A separate orientation for the new Public Members prior to the new commissioner orientation for each commission,
- New Public Members attend the Summer Commission Meeting as observers prior to the commencement of their first term
- All new Public Members be placed on observer visits during their first term
- All four commission Executive Committees are provided an orientation on the role of the Public Member on the commission.

INTAC REPORT

The Chair of the International Activities Council, **Phillip Borrowman**, submitted INTAC's report. The report included matters concerning substantial equivalency visits, consultations, general and interim reviews, and evaluation visits.

Chair Borrowman informed the Board that the Washington Accord Signatories will meet in Dublin, Ireland, on June 27-30, 2006, for an interim workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss a variety of topics concerning the accord, including distance education and changing standards. He reported that a training session for the new international program evaluators will be held in October 2006 during the ABET Annual Meeting.

SOCIETY ASSESSEMENTS SET

The ABET Board approved the society assessments for FY 2006-2007:

Fee per Member Director	\$16,171
Fee per Associate Member Representative	\$12,128
Fee per Curricula Program	\$234

BUDGET APPROVED

The ABET Board approved a \$5.6 M budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

UPDATES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S TASK GROUPS

The President's task groups, the Financial Model Task Force and the International Accreditation Task Group, presented their reports to the Board. **Financial Model Task Force Chair John Lorenz** provided the Board with insight into the Financial Model Project, including background information and current status. The Financial Model Task Force was established in response to a request from the finance committee for a "Proposed Revised Revenue and Expense Model." The group has decided to use a clean-sheet-of-paper approach.

International Accreditation Task Group Chair Richard Anderson presented the task group's report. Anderson explained that the task group was formed to implement the motion approved by the ABET Board in October 2005 directing ABET to proceed with developing a plan for international accreditation that will continue to honor existing Mutual Recognition Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, while phasing out substantial equivalency evaluations.

A breakout session on the second day of the Board meeting was held. The goal of the session was to engage the Board of Directors in the development of a new financial model and a plan for international accreditation and generating input for the task groups. The breakout discussions focused on questions from the Financial Model Task Force regarding ABET's financial structure and practices, as well as four general topics that the International Accreditation Task Group will be addressing, including personnel, politics, paperwork, and financials. The task groups gathered all of the Board input and will be presenting their recommendations to the Board at the fall 2006 meeting.

ABET STRATEGIC ISSUES REVISITED

ABET Associate Executive Director **Kathryn Aberle** reviewed ABET's strategy making process. She asked all Board members to participate in an exercise where they expressed their opinions about the immediacy of current ABET issues. These issues include globalization of the professions, accreditation process requirements, and the shift in the student candidate pool. The members were asked to indicate whether each issue was an immediate, near-term, or farther-term concern, or no longer an issue at all. A graphical analysis of the Board's input was created and will be posted on the ABET Board secure website.

SYSTEMS ENGINEERING WORKSHOP

Executive Director **George Peterson** informed the Board of Directors about the Systems Engineering Workshop to be held at the BWI Airport Marriott Hotel on Tuesday, March 21, 2006. All ABET member societies were invited to participate. The objective of the workshop is for ABET to gain more insight and input from representatives of those societies (and INCOSE) that have an interest in sustaining the quality of systems engineering graduates and develop a framework that the ABET Board of Directors can consider for the evaluation of systems engineering programs.

MULTI- LEAD SOCIETIES PROCESS

Accreditation Council Chair **Dave Holger** presented the response from the Accreditation Council regarding IEEE's proposed process for Co-Lead Societies. The Board voted to endorse ABET's current process and instructed Accreditation Director **Daniel Hodge** to document it formally.

2006 ANNUAL MEETING PLANNED

Annual Meeting Committee Chair **William Clark** presented the plans for the 2006 ABET Annual Meeting, which will take place on October 26 and 27 at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, Tampa, Florida. The theme will be *The 3rd ABET International Congress on Education, Accreditation, and Practice*.

Registration will be available in early May on ABET's website at www.abet.org/register.shtml. ABET invites deans, faculty, administrators, industry leaders, government representatives, grant-makers, researchers, accrediting bodies, professional societies, and invested foundations and organizations all to participate in this notable event.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

President **Richard Seagrave** announced that the next Board of Directors meeting would be on Saturday, October 28, 2006, at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, Tampa, Florida. Given that one of the top issues identified by the Board was globalization, Board members were strongly encouraged to attend the 2006 ABET Annual Meeting.

Board of Directors meeting schedule:

New Board Member Orientation – Wed., Oct. 25, 2006

ABET Annual Meeting – Thurs.-Fri., Oct. 26-27, 2006

Town Meeting (final session of the ABET Annual Meeting)– Fri., Oct. 27, 2006

Board of Directors Meeting – Sat., Oct. 28, 2006

Submitted by

George D. Peterson, Executive Director

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