

CommunityMatters™

A Monthly Newsletter for the ABET Community

February 2008

InsideABET

ABET Board Task Groups Address Three Pressing Strategic Issues

One of the major functions of any organization's board of directors is considering strategic issues that influence the direction in which the organization should go in the future. Having identified these issues, the board then decides what will be done to achieve the desired goals. While monitoring progress on current issues is an ongoing process, the ABET Board of Directors refreshes their list of strategic issues anticipating emerging challenges approximately every five years.

At its March 2007 meeting, the ABET Board determined the strategic opportunities that should receive the organization's highest priority as follows:

- ▶ **Educational delivery**, especially what the emergence of new educational scenarios and sequences means for ABET and how the organization will approach their quality assurance.
- ▶ **Globalization** regarding the increasingly borderless nature of technical education and employment, as well as the opportunities and challenges that the global marketplace presents for an accreditation organization such as ABET.
- ▶ **Governance**, particularly whether ABET's current internal structure is optimal and if the organization itself is populated with the right representation to operate effectively in the emerging environment.

Once these issues were identified, the Board appointed volunteers to serve on Strategic Issues Task Groups, one addressing each of these areas. The groups were charged to further refine the issues, determine outcomes that would satisfy them, plan approaches to address their solution, and present proposals to the Board of Directors for action.

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VolunteerSpotlight

Kevin Taylor

Kevin D. Taylor is one busy guy. He is the Interim Director of Purdue's College of Technology at Kokomo and an Associate Professor in its Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology. He is also Co-Affiliate Director for Purdue's Project Lead the Way® (PLTW), a national program that introduces engineering concepts in middle and high schools. And he somehow still finds time to serve as a member of the Executive Committee of ABET's Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC).

Kevin's first exposure to ABET was not through a professional society but as the program coordinator for the bachelor's program in electrical engineering technology at Penn State-Behrend as it was seeking its initial accreditation. Intrigued by this experience and the idea of educational quality assurance in general, Kevin volunteered to become an ABET program evaluator for IEEE in 1996.

Since that time, Kevin has served as the TAC's representative from the Society of

Automotive Engineers (now SAE International), from 2000 to 2005, and he is currently TAC's Vice Chair-Operations. Kevin will become its Chair-Elect for the 2008-2009 accreditation cycle this coming July.

This month, Kevin will host a session of ABET's new webinar series, the "Preparing for the Site Visit, 2008-2009" program,

designed specifically for schools expecting a TAC evaluation this fall. The discussion will touch upon the visit's objectives and itinerary and include tips for programs to avoid common pitfalls. Kevin is in a unique position to guide programs along their path, having been both the ABET visitor as well as the program rep before.

His ultimate goal is to assist faculty as they continuously review their curricula and provide their students with an effective education. "An ABET evaluation is one of many tools in the assessment process used to provide feedback to improve programs," Kevin said. "ABET should not be a program's reason for having an assessment process."



LookAhead

- Feb. 1 — "Preparing for the Site Visit 2008-2009: Engineering" Webinar
- Feb. 6 — ABET Board Briefing Teleconference
— "Preparing for the Site Visit 2008-2009: Technology" Webinar
- Feb. 9 — Faculty Workshop on Assessing Program Outcomes, Tampa, FL
- Feb. 12 — "Preparing for the Site Visit 2008-2009: Computing" Webinar
- Feb. 14 — "Preparing for the Site Visit 2008-2009: Applied Science" Webinar
- Feb. 22 — ABET Board Executive Committee Meeting, Baltimore, MD
— Program Evaluator Training, Baltimore, MD
- Feb. 29 — Registration deadline for March 15 Faculty Workshop on Assessing Program Outcomes, Nashville, TN

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At next month's Board meeting, each of the groups will provide a progress report including updated outcomes and a proposed event sequence. The Educational Delivery team expects to propose recommendations for Board consideration and action. ABET Past-President **William S. Clark**, who initiated the update to the strategic plan during his presidency and is helping to coordinate efforts among the groups, said he expects all three groups to have concrete proposals for the Board by its fall meeting in Louisville, KY. These may include minor or substantial changes to ABET policy, bylaws, operating manuals, or other areas. However, this is not the end of ABET's efforts.

"Just because we have identified the top strategic issues, our work isn't done," Clark said. "This is only the top layer of about 20 areas that could use our attention. Other issues will surface, so we have to continue looking at those that face ABET and accreditation. We are planning a strategic-oriented Annual Meeting this fall to help the organization determine the major factors affecting the future of ABET, and we are anxious to collaborate with our constituents on this effort."

Associate Executive Director for Accreditation Daniel B. Hodge to Retire

Following a decade as a member of ABET's professional staff, Associate Executive Director for Accreditation Daniel B. Hodge, Ph.D., P.E., will retire on Friday, February 29.

Hodge had been a volunteer with ABET for 14 years when ABET Executive Director George D. Peterson, Ph.D., P.E., tapped him for the position of ABET Accreditation Director in 1998. When he accepted the post, he became the first individual to oversee all three of the accreditation commissions that existed at that time. This unique position provided him with the opportunity to begin the harmonization of all ABET accreditation activities and processes that continues to this day.

"Dan Hodge has been key to advancing the ABET outcomes-based accreditation model and incorporating modern technologies in creating a more efficient and effective accreditation process," Peterson said.

Hodge assisted in the creation of ABET's *Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual* and the *Rules of Procedure*, which defines the operations of the Board of Directors, the

Accreditation Council, the accreditation commissions, and other ABET governing bodies. He was a member of the CSAB Transition Team, which helped to successfully integrate the computing accrediting body's activities into ABET's. Furthermore, he was instrumental in the development of the criteria known as EC2000 and the subsequent implementation of outcomes-based criteria among the Applied Science, Computing, and Technology Accreditation Commissions.

In 2006, Hodge became Associate Executive Director for Accreditation. This position continued his responsibility for ABET's core business of accreditation.

Daniel B. Hodge began his electrical engineering career as a ham radio operator in 1952 and worked his way through college as an announcer and technician in commercial radio and television broadcast stations. He earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering from Purdue University and then joined the electrical engineering faculty at the University of Illinois. This was followed by a year in Norway as a Royal Postdoctoral Fellow assigned to the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment. Upon his return to the United States in 1966, he joined the electrical engineering faculty at The Ohio State University.

Over his distinguished career, Hodge taught in the areas of electromagnetics, computers, and electric power systems and conducted research programs funded by NASA, the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Army, and Intelsat Corporation. He served as Head of the Bradley Department of Electrical Engineering at Virginia Tech and as Chair of the Electrical Engineering Department at The Ohio State University. Following retirement from Ohio State, Hodge became Program Director in the National Science Foundation's Division of Undergraduate Education.

Members of ABET's Strategic Issues Task Groups

Educational Delivery

- ▶ Susan Schall, Chair
- ▶ Dave Holger
- ▶ Tom Kenney
- ▶ Patricia Ladewig
- ▶ Jim Plasker
- ▶ Dennis Readey
- ▶ Ken Rennels
- ▶ Sunit Sachdev
- ▶ Ed Wiggins

Globalization

- ▶ Ron Hinn, Chair
- ▶ George Boggs
- ▶ Pat Daniels
- ▶ Joe Fowler
- ▶ Rick Jones
- ▶ Larry Kaye
- ▶ Willis King
- ▶ Win Phillips
- ▶ Patrick Walsh

Governance

- ▶ Dick Seagrave, Chair
- ▶ Phil Borrowman
- ▶ Frank Dodge
- ▶ Arnie Peskin
- ▶ Monte Phillips
- ▶ Kay Schulze
- ▶ Jeff Siirola
- ▶ Harrie Stevens
- ▶ Karan Watson

ABETOnline

- ▶ Register for one or more of ABET's webinars at www.abet.org/webinar.shtml.
- ▶ Find tips and tools for promoting your accredited programs: www.abet.org/promote.shtml.
- ▶ Purchase the ABET 75th Anniversary Retrospective book from www.abet.org/order.shtml.

CommunityMatters™

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Assessment 101

Assessment Tips with Gloria Rogers, Ph.D.

Program Self-Assessment Tool

This tool was developed for the purpose of providing programs a way of identifying where they are in establishing their assessment processes. It is intended

for self-assessment only and is **not** an “official” ABET document. It is designed to assist in identifying areas where improvements can be made to strengthen the effectiveness of your program assessment and evaluation efforts.

Self-Assessment: Quality Assurance of Program-Level Assessment of Student Learning¹

The following scale should be used for each item:

- 0 – Not in place
- 1 – Beginning stage of development
- 2 – Beginning stage of implementation
- 3 – In place and implemented
- 4 – Implemented and evaluated for effectiveness
- 5 – Implemented, evaluated and at least one cycle of improvement

Stakeholder Involvement <small>(Those who have a vested interest in the outcome of the program)</small>	Rating	Program Educational Objectives <small>(Graduates performance after completing program)</small>	Rating	Program Outcomes <small>(Desired knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviors, by the time of completing program)</small>	Rating
Stakeholders are identified		Objectives are defined		Outcomes are identified	
Primary stakeholders are involved in identifying/ affirming program educational objectives		Objectives are publicly documented		Number of outcomes are manageable	
Primary stakeholders are involved in periodic evaluation of educational objectives		Number of objectives are manageable		Outcomes are publicly documented	
Sustained partnerships with stakeholders are developed		Objectives are aligned with department/program mission statement		Outcomes are linked to educational objectives	
		Objectives are periodically assessed to determine achievement		Outcomes are defined by a manageable number of measurable performance indicators	
		Objectives are periodically evaluated for currency			

Program Outcomes <small>aligned with educational practices</small>	Rating	Assessment Processes	Rating	Evaluation	Rating
Desired outcomes and are mapped to curricular practices and/or strategies (e.g., courses/ teaching methodology)		Assessment is on-going and systematic at the program level		Assessment data are systematically reviewed	
Practices/strategies are systematically evaluated using outcomes assessment data		Multiple methods are used to measure each outcome		Evaluation of results are done by those who can effect change	
Where necessary, educational practices are modified based on evaluation of assessment data		Both direct and indirect measures of student learning are used to measure outcomes		Evaluation of assessment data is linked to curricular practices/ strategies	
		Assessment processes are reviewed for effectiveness and efficiency		Evaluation leads to decision making/action	
		When needed, assessment methods are modified based on evaluation processes			

¹ This tool is intended for self-assessment only to assist in understanding areas for improvement in the assessment process development. Assessment Planning Flowchart © 2004. Revised January 2008.

YourCorner

Board of Directors

The spring Board of Directors meeting, which will take place on Saturday, March 29, will be held at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport. Rachele Daucher will send details about making hotel reservations and meeting registration within the next couple of weeks.

Commissioners

If you have not already evaluated your fall team(s), please log on to <http://abethome.abet.org/evaluation> and do so as soon as possible. All you need is your ABET user name and password. Your evaluations are a vital part of ABET’s continuous improvement processes, and we need your input!

Institutions

If your program was visited in the fall of 2007 and you have not already evaluated your visit team, please log on to <http://abethome.abet.org/evaluation> and do so. Your evaluation is a vital part of ABET’s continuous improvement processes. (Note that the evaluation will **not** be shared with the team until **after** a final accreditation action is determined this summer.) The user name and password needed to complete your evaluation were sent to you via e-mail in October. If you need these re-sent, don’t hesitate to contact ABET’s Accreditation Director Maryanne Weiss at mweiss@abet.org.

Member Societies

Do you know of qualified individuals who would make great program evaluators? Then, submit their names and e-mail addresses for the April, May, or June sessions of the Face-to-Face PEV Training to training@abet.org. This year’s travel expenses for all trainees will be paid by ABET. For details, contact Assistant to the Accreditation Manager Beth Mundy at bmundy@abet.org.

Also, if you have vacancies coming up on the ABET Board of Directors, you should have received a letter within the past few weeks that requests renominations or new appointments to fill those positions. These are due to ABET headquarters by March 21.

Member Societies

ABET is a federation of 28 professional and technical societies representing the fields of applied science, computing, engineering, and technology:

American Academy of Environmental Engineers	Health Physics Society
American Congress on Surveying and Mapping	IEEE, Inc.
American Industrial Hygiene Association	Institute of Industrial Engineers, Inc.
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc.	ISA
American Institute of Chemical Engineers	Materials Research Society
American Nuclear Society	National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying
American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers	National Institute of Ceramic Engineers
American Society of Civil Engineers	National Society of Professional Engineers
American Society for Engineering Education	SAE International
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.	Society of Manufacturing Engineers
American Society of Safety Engineers	Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc.
ASME	Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers
Biomedical Engineering Society	Society of Petroleum Engineers
CSAB, Inc.	The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society



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