

Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology
Department Heads' Association Semi-Annual Business Meeting
2009 ASEE Annual Conference
Neal Kocurek Memorial Austin Convention Center, 13B
Austin, TX
Tuesday, June 16, 2009
at 7:00 a.m.

Minutes

I. Call to Order (R. Land)

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Ron Land, at 7:02 a.m. The agenda and handouts for the meeting were distributed to all in attendance and approved.

The meeting began with an introduction of all in attendance.

The 22 attendees were:

Name & Affiliation

Walter Buchanan - Texas A&M University
Tom Hall - Northwestern State Univ.
Bob Herrick - Purdue University
Ron Land - Penn State University
Ron Rockland - NJIT
Gary Steffen - IPFW
Ken Burbank - Western Carolina University
Chuck Hickman - IEEE
Carol Richardson - RIT
Gene Liao - Wayne State University
Don Homan - Sinclair Community College
Nasser Alaraje - Michigan Technology University
Jay Porter - Texas A&M University
Warren Hill - Weber State University
Todd Morton - Western Washington University
Carmine Balascio - University of Delaware
John Hackworth - Old Dominion University
Bill Clapp - Weber State University
Enrique Barbieri - University of Houston
Scott Dunning - University of Maine
Olusegun Adeyemi - Grambling State University
Austin Asgill - SPSU

II. Approval of Minutes (G. Steffen)

Approval of the minutes of the February 3, 2009 meeting in Orlando, FL was obtained by Ron Land.

III. Treasurer's Report (W. Buchanan)

The Treasurer's Report prepared by Walter Buchanan was reviewed. The Association's current account balance stands at \$5,304.38. Ron Land commented that the balance does not yet reflect some expenditure for the most recent mini-grant and some travel. The current membership of 94 for the association is a new record.

IV. Mini-Grant Awards (R. Land)

Ron Land expressed that additional information and reports for the mini-grants can be found on the ECETDHA website.

There has been a lot more activity in the mini-grant competition in the past year.

- a. Status report on January 2009 award
 1. University of Dayton: Single-Channel Amplifier/Signal Conditioner - No Report Available
 2. University of Memphis: Training Kits of Summer HS Recruitment Efforts - They ran two summer camp sessions for a total of 28 young woman. The camp taught soldering and other electronic skills.
 3. University of Massachusetts-Lowell: Transmission Line Demonstration Board - Printed circuit boards have been designed at 1.5GHz, laid out by the students using software and then manufactured. The project was well received by the students.

b. June 2009 award announcement

Ron Land reported that six excellent applications for the mini-grant were received and evaluated. One \$1000.00 grant was awarded to Drexel University for the project entitled "Development of a Small Wind Turbine Emulator as a Laboratory Experiment in a Renewable Energy Technology Course". The award has not yet been paid out.

V. Report on CTAA Activities (T. Hall)

Tom Hall expressed that there were several issues discussed at the most recent CTAA meeting. The size of the CTAA may be too large and that one each of the TAC commissioners and regular members might be cut. This would not be a good idea since we are taking an expanded role in PEV mentoring.

ABET is beginning to move into international accreditation. The IEEE is now going to other countries and helping setup their own accreditation.

Last year there were 11 "Show Causes" on accreditation visits. This is up from the 5-6 from the previous year with most of those "Show Causes" coming from one university. This might reflect that the grace period is over. We have now been through one complete cycle of the new accreditation standard.

VI. Discussion of Effectiveness of TC2K Accreditation Practices (C. Hickman, IEEE)

The CTAA has raised concerns with the procedure and standard of accreditation. Chuck Hickman, at the suggestion of the CTAA, attended the ECETDHA meeting to receive feedback and comment on the accreditation process.

Three questions were asked:

1. What impact have criteria 2 and 3 had on your program?

R. Rockland - The problem with new criteria is that people are not used to it. They have never used objectives.

W. Hill - too many schools just look at A-K. It helps in the first four or five but then they need to come up with their own outcomes. You really have to form your outcomes to your constituents.

T. Hall - TAC is not having the same problems as EAC. We learned from EAC mistakes. Outcomes based assessment takes time and investment. There are lots of things you can do wrong in outcome based assessment. You can over asses.

W. Hill - too many ET programs are under the gun in their institutions.

C. Balascio - They are worded in a difficult way. We are going to develop our own competencies and the map them to A-K.

J. Hackworth - Getting faculty involved is very difficult. It is hard for them to understand.

J. Porter - Shelter the tenure track faculty from assessment because they have a heavy research responsibility.

C. Richardson - The bar was raised a little bit more each year. We are through a complete cycle.

W. Buchanan - We are spending a lot more money for not a lot of results.

2. Has implementation of the new criteria provided value to programs commensurate with the added costs?

R. Land - We do a lot more work but still have about the same program. We just don't have the documentation. We spend a lot of money and time.

T. Hall - We can over assess. We don't have to assess every year, in every course, or in every class.

J. Porter - The evaluation process is a crapshoot. That's why people over asses. The evaluators are not looking for the positive. They are looking for the weakness.

E. Barbieri - We hired an assessment person with a Ph.D.

C. Balascio - It is too subjective.

J. Hackworth - It helps in the transfer process from another school. Students come looking for an ABET accredited school.

W. Hill - We differentiate ourselves from other colleges by our accreditation.

3. What impact have the A-K criteria had on creativity and innovation in program content and delivery, which was one of the intended values?

Multiple People - It does not matter.

R. Land - It matters because we have to document, but in terms of innovation, not much has changed.

J. Porter - A-K have cost us lots because an Ethics course has been added and an additional writing course. It is a large indirect cost.

Other comments:

B. Herrick - There are lots of workshops but could ABET help more? Is there a way to streamline more? Could there be a defining document?

VII. Assessment Testing Project Update (R. Land)

1. Beta test - preliminary results

Ron Land expressed that the beta test of the exam was given to 124 students in 8 different states. The 120 question test came from a pool of 340 questions. The maximum score was a 73%, minimum was 20% and the average was 41%. The low scores were attributed to the fact that it is an assessment exam, limited student motivation to take the exam, and short notification. The guidelines and controls of the exam must also be inspected for possible problems.

2. Plan of action - (open discussion) Ron stated that more data from the exam will be available at the end of the

month. He will be looking for volunteers to go through the exam. We may need to run a second trial before we begin marketing the exam. The breakeven point for the exam should be about \$90.00. This is only the core exam but the long term plan is to find funding for additional specialized modules.

VIII. Nomination/Election of New Officers (R. Land)

Ron announced that Scott Segalewitz would begin his two year term as Chair and Ron would become Immediate Past Chair directly following this meeting. If anyone is interested in being on the board, please contact Ron Land.

IX. Comments for Good of the Association

Ron Land announced that the electronic clearinghouses of MERC and NETEC have been merged to serve as a single resource for all technology education disciplines. The combined clearinghouse is based at Sinclair Community College in Dayton Ohio and continues to be supported by NSF, specifically, the ATE program. IEEE is a partner to the project. An agreement was recently finalized between NCME and IEEE, that spells out the services to the electrical engineering technology and engineering community provided by the clearinghouse.

The clearinghouse can be checked out at:

www.neteconline.org [National Engineering Technology Clearinghouse (NETEC)]

or at:

www.merconline.net [Manufacturing Education Resource Center (MERC)].


(There will be a single URL in the near future).

For more information, contact J. Waintraub at (732)547-9839.

X. Adjournment of Business Meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20am

Respectfully Submitted,



Gary Steffen
Secretary