

ASEE's New Role in the ABET Program Accreditation Process

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents information about the new ASEE role in the ABET accreditation process and includes two important messages: the first illustrates the significant impact individual members' initiative can have in ASEE, even at the national level, and the second presents the current status of the new ASEE role as a lead society in the accreditation process. Specifically, ASEE is now the lead society for engineering programs called engineering, general engineering, engineering science and engineering physics, and for a similar set of engineering technology programs.

These engineering and engineering technology programs have the distinction of not having "program criteria" (Criterion 8) in the ABET accreditation process. Historically, it has been reported anecdotally that some programs felt that the evaluators were not well trained for the evaluation of this type of program. It is anticipated that this new structure will improve the review process for these programs. Also reviewed are the role, responsibilities, and membership of ASEE's new Accreditation Activities Committee, and its progress toward the initial responsibility for the 2006 accreditation visits for this set of programs. The programs in the Gulf Southwest Section now under ASEE's purview are listed.

I. ASEE Member Initiative and the Multidisciplinary Engineering Division

This section reviews the historical development of the ASEE Multidisciplinary Engineering Division from its visible beginning as a flurry of email communications early in 2001 by Dr. Joan Gosink, Colorado School of Mines, and with help from some other engineering educators. A forum was organized and held at the ASEE 2001 annual conference in Albuquerque, NM, for faculty members interested and/or involved in multidisciplinary engineering programs. With continued leadership by Dr. Gosink and others, that initiative has increased its constituency and program at each of the succeeding ASEE Annual Conferences and led to the recognition by the ASEE Board of Directors of the new ASEE Multidisciplinary Engineering Division in June 2005.

Year 2001 and the Annual Meeting in Albuquerque

The initiative of the group for "those interested and/or involved in 'non-traditional engineering' programs" that has now become the ASEE Multidisciplinary Engineering Division (MULTI)

began in early 2001. With a series of widely disseminated email messages from the energetic initiative of Dr. Joan Gosink, at that time a Colorado School of Mines professor and director of their Division of Engineering. It was proposed that "those interested and/or involved in 'non-traditional engineering' programs" meet at the next ASEE Annual Conference.

Based on a very enthusiastic response to those initial communications, and with help from some other engineering educators (notably Dr. Edwin C. Jones, Iowa State University), a special meeting was organized and was held through the cooperation and sponsorship of the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Division. Session 2332 Forum for Non-traditional Engineering Programs was held on June 26 at the 2001 ASEE Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM, for "those interested and/or involved in 'non-traditional engineering' programs."

With extensive promotion and Dr. Gosink's leadership, the attendance was good, with a recorded attendance of 31, representing nearly as many different institutions. Dr. Gosink moderated the discussion and Dr. Edwin Jones, Iowa State University, served as secretary pro tem. The discussion was lively, with considerable debate over the appropriate thrust and the leadership of the group. As its initial leadership, the group selected a steering committee comprising Dr. Gosink (chair), Dr. Dayne Aldridge, Mercer University, and Dr. Harry Cook, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, with Dr. Jones serving temporarily as secretary.

The informal notes by Dr. Jones from that meeting reported the following:

“Preliminary work indicated that ABET lists about 78 ‘non-traditional’ engineering programs with titles that include Engineering, General Engineering, Engineering Science, Engineering Physics, Engineering Systems, and similar variations. Currently these programs lack the cohesiveness of a ‘parent organization.’ This meeting is to initiate the development of a forum for the department heads of ‘non-traditional programs.’ Our objectives include the delineation of the problems, solutions, and unique opportunities available to this community. We believe that ASEE provides a natural base for consideration of these issues.

“Those present expressed a concern with the term ‘nontraditional,’ on the basis that it is a term stating what the group is not. After discussion, the consensus (was) to use the term ‘multidisciplinary’ engineering programs.

“Discussion indicated that the multidisciplinary engineering programs may generally (be) grouped into three types:

- a. Broad-based, single programs, often in a 4-year college.
- b. Distinct specialization engineering program.
- c. A multidisciplinary program existing within a large institution with several 'traditional' programs.”

Another important topic of that initial meeting was the accreditation of such programs, which now have no “program-specific” criteria. The following points were recorded from the meeting:

- “a. There is no interest in having program criteria for multidisciplinary engineering programs.
- b. While there is general satisfaction with the program evaluators being provided by the various societies, working with ABET, there was also the opinion expressed that this constituent group has a minimal role, if any, in the selection, training, and evaluation of the program evaluators. Further, few of the faculty (members) in multidisciplinary engineering programs are selected by the professional societies to be program evaluators.
- c. There may be a need for supplemental materials both for multidisciplinary programs preparing to be visited, and for the multidisciplinary program evaluators.
- d. Sponsorship of a training session might be a useful activity.
- e. Could ASEE be a 'lead society' for multidisciplinary programs? (This has financial implications.)”

Finally, this inaugural meeting reached consensus that:

- “a. The group should seek to form a constituent committee within ASEE.
- b. The group is willing to have assessment of institutional fees to support some activities.”

It was decided to continue to meet, with the second meeting to be organized for the 2002 ASEE Annual Conference in Montreal, QB.

Year 2002 and the ASEE Annual Conference in Montreal

The second meeting was described in the early email announcements as the Department Heads of Multidisciplinary Engineering Programs (DHMEP) meeting. The notes of the initial meeting in 2001 had included the statement, “This meeting is to initiate the development of a forum for the department heads of ‘non-traditional programs.’” Similarly, an April 2002 email announcement for the second meeting, to be held at the 2002 ASEE Annual Conference in Montreal, reflected this theme with the statement,

“Currently, each of the major societies ... has active department heads groups that forward the interests of their respective programs. Our objective is to create a similar supportive activity. For example, at the first meeting, we discussed the benefits of having ASEE serve as the 'parent' organization for ABET evaluators of non-traditional degree programs. It was widely felt that ASEE's participation in the selection of ABET evaluators for our programs could be helpful. In addition, a direct affiliation with ASEE, regular presence at ASEE conferences, and articles in Prism could focus positive attention on non-traditional programs.”

The proposed agenda for the second meeting, described in the early email announcement as the Department Heads of Multidisciplinary Engineering Programs (DHMEP) meeting, was:

"the formalization of DHMEP as an ASEE constituent committee,
 "specific examples of special programs and unique features of MEP programs at various colleges and universities,
 “ABET experiences,
 “draft of a survey related to the faculty issues at non-traditional engineering programs.”

The program slot at the 2002 ASEE Annual Conference in Montreal was again provided by the ECE Division and was actually listed as Session 1732 Forum for Non-traditional Engineering Programs, with Dr. Gosink and Dr. Jones as Moderators. Unfortunately, Dr. Gosink was unable to attend, but her colleague from Colorado School of Mines, Dr. Robert King, and Dr. Jones ably assumed that role in coordinating the meeting. The published advance description of the session read,

“ABET recognizes non-traditional engineering programs with titles such as general engineering, engineering science, engineering physics, or engineering systems. This forum will provide an opportunity for department heads/chairs and others interested in non-traditional engineering programs to discuss the problems, issues, opportunities, and unique solutions available to the community, including possible formation of an organization/committee.”

Dr. King subsequently provided notes for the meeting. In addition to a summary of the Albuquerque meeting and among other highlights recorded in the notes of the meeting were these two important points:

"The point that some multidisciplinary programs like Bioengineering and Engineering Physics are already represented by ASEE committees. This committee is not meant to supercede any existing committees of ASEE, but members of other committees are welcome to participate in this committee.

"The point that forming a constituent committee is a first step in achieving ABET representation of multidisciplinary programs though ASEE. There is some concern that unless universities are willing to contribute to the cost of ABET's fees and visitor training, ASEE may not support such a proposal. It was emphasized that the constituent committee has other agenda items as well, such as providing a focal point for communications between members and being a contact point for discussions on issues like ABET accreditation. ABET is discussing the issue of blurring the traditional programs, and input from this group may be helpful."

Other notes prepared by Dr. King included the following business:

"The attendees represented a variety of multidisciplinary programs; for example,

1. General engineering programs with no specializations
2. General engineering programs with specializations
3. Programs that merged two or three disciplines but were not as general as 1. or 2.
4. Programs that began as multidisciplinary but later divided and retained the multidisciplinary degree a well
5. Programs at research universities
6. Programs at liberal arts colleges
7. Programs that merge engineering and management.”

A petition to become a Constituent Committee of ASEE, prepared by Dr. Gosink, was edited and then signed by 17 attendees. The group decided to plan a program, with both a technical session and a business meeting, for the 2003 ASEE Annual Conference scheduled for Nashville, TN. Two areas of focus for technical session papers were suggested: multidisciplinary engineering program curricula and multidisciplinary engineering program visibility. Those assembled elected Dr. Gosink as chair, Dr. Jim Farison, Baylor University, as vice chair (and program chair) and Dr. Phillip Young, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, as secretary/treasurer.

From the original initiative at the 2001 meeting and the petition prepared at the 2002 meeting and subsequently submitted to ASEE, the new Multidisciplinary Engineering Constituent Committee (MECC) was approved by the ASEE Board of Directors in mid-October 2002.

Year 2003 and the ASEE Annual Conference in Nashville

The initial MECC bylaws, drafted by Dr. Gosink and reviewed by Dr. Farison, were submitted to ASEE in January and approved by the ASEE Board of Directors on January 26, 2003. This approval was announced in the March 2003 issue of the emailed ASEE ACTION, distributed on February 19.

In a pre-conference publicity emailing, Dr. Gosink wrote:

"The real goal of the MECC is to promote the interests of Multidisciplinary Engineering programs throughout the country. The new affiliation with ASEE provides us with a venue for furthering these interests, and for drawing attention to the very real achievements of these programs."

With full recognition as an ASEE constituent committee, MECC had a formally listed MECC Business Meeting (Session 1671) at the 2003 ASEE Annual Conference in Nashville. However, the approvals of the group's petition and bylaws were too late in the annual cycle for MECC to be eligible to sponsor its own technical sessions. Nonetheless, with the gracious cooperation of the Physics and Engineering Physics (PEP) Division, MECC was provided time in a PEP technical session, Session 1380 Issues in Multidisciplinary Programs. The session included the presentation of five papers generated from the MECC constituency.

The first official MECC organizational meeting chaired by Dr. Gosink was held with 10 members present. Chair Gosink reported that ASEE had approved the MECC petition and a preliminary draft of the group's bylaws. The draft bylaws were reviewed carefully, section by section, and several wording improvements were considered and accepted by consensus, whereupon Dr. Charles Backus, Arizona State University, East, moved, and Dr. Robert Barat, New Jersey Institute of Technology, seconded, the motion to adopt the revised bylaws. The motion was passed by unanimous vote. The bylaws provide that officers serve for two-year terms. Officers elected were Dr. Gosink, chair; Dr. Farison, vice chair (and program chair); and Dr. Young, secretary/treasurer. The MECC was now official, with members, officers and bylaws. Dr. Steven VanderLeest, Calvin College, offered to serve and was approved as webmaster.

Among the important actions at the 2003 business meeting in Nashville, in addition to the review and approval of the MECC bylaws, was the next step in the development of the mission of the MECC. According to the minutes prepared by Dr. Farison,

"Dr. Gosink indicated that one of the motivations of the group that petitioned for the formation of MECC was to have a role in representing multidisciplinary programs with ABET. She suggested that MECC contact ABET and request notification of discussions of 'multidisciplinary engineering' programs. Those present gave general concurrence."

ASEE records show that at the time of the annual meeting in June, MECC had a membership of 75 individuals. By October 2003, that number had grown to 109.

With formal ASEE recognition as a Constituent Committee, the MECC now had additional resources available, including its listing on the ASEE website and eligibility to host technical sessions at the annual conference. A call for papers for the 2004 Annual Conference was published in the September 2003 issue (page 55) of ASEE Prism. MECC also distributed its CFP to its own informal mailing list and posted it on its new website.

Year 2004 and the ASEE Annual Conference in Salt Lake City

By January 2004, MECC membership reached 132.

Many good manuscripts were received and reviewed, and 20 final papers were accepted. The papers were organized into a full program with four technical sessions, and provided an interesting and varied program for the 2004 Annual ASEE Conference in Salt Lake City. The MECC program comprised four technical sessions and a business meeting.

The business meeting, chaired by Dr. Gosink, was attended by 9 members. The following were the primary items of business:

Dr. Gosink announced that, on Sunday, June 20, the ASEE Board of Directors had approved the concept of assuming the role of "Lead Society" for "EAC programs in engineering (without modifiers), engineering physics, and engineering science(s), and TAC programs in engineering technology (without modifiers)." The ASEE leadership plans to develop and present a petition for this status to ASEE within the next few months. Discussion focused on how MECC could support this effort. It was agreed to contact Dr. Edwin C. Jones for this information. Dr. Gosink also reported that she had been asked to serve on an ASEE implementation committee when the petition was approved by ABET.

The question of evolving MECC into a division was discussed, as the group is coming close to the minimum of 200 members to become a division. Meeting participants were urged to encourage conference session attendees to join MECC. Planning for the 2005 Annual ASEE Meeting to be held in Portland was also discussed.

A nominating committee was formed to recommend candidates for chair, vice chair/program chair and secretary/treasurer for the two-year terms beginning in June 2005. Dr. Gosink

Colorado School of Mines), as out-going chair, Dr. Steve VanderLeest (Calvin College) and Dr. Fred Driscoll (Wentworth Institute of Technology) were selected to serve. Dr. Jones will also be asked to participate.

The 2005 MECC Call for Papers appeared in the Summer (pp. 77) and September (pp. 59-60) 2004 issues of Prism and on the MECC website, and was emailed to the group's extensive contact list. Six technical sessions and a business meeting were requested for the 2005 Annual Conference. Five technical sessions and a business meeting were approved.

The ABET Board of Directors, at their meeting on October 30, 2004, considered the ASEE proposal and took the following action, as reported on the ABET website, http://www.abet.org/news_board.html.

ASEE PETITION FOR LEAD SOCIETY TABLED

The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) submitted a petition to the ABET Board of Directors to approve ASEE as the Lead Society for EAC Programs in engineering (without modifiers), engineering physics, and engineering science(s), and for TAC Programs in engineering technology (without modifiers).

Several questions were brought up during the discussion that required further clarification. The Board tabled the motion and asked ASEE to address the questions and acquire inputs and comments from institutions and programs regarding the petition before bringing the petition back to the Board of Directors.

The next ABET Board of Directors meeting was scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2005, at the Waterfront Marriott Hotel in Baltimore, MD.

By the end of 2004, MECC membership had grown to 239. The requirements for upgrading from a Constituent Committee to a Division (Article VI, Section 3, of the ASEE Bylaws) are:

“After a minimum of three (3) years of successful operation, and upon reaching a membership of approximately two hundred or more, the Constituent Committee may petition to the Board of Directors for Divisional status. The petition will be submitted through its Council and the Council will recommend its pleasure to the Board.”

An ASEE staff person added, in a December email message, “The Board of Directors can, however, grant Division status at its discretion for units that have grown very quickly and have demonstrated their ability to come up with active volunteer leaders and put on successful technical programs. With your current membership, and having put on four technical sessions at the Salt Lake City meeting, you could probably make a good case for accelerated upgrade to Division status.”

Year 2005 and the ASEE Annual Conference in Portland

The Call for Papers (and a couple of abstracts that were selected by the program chair from the undesignated site) resulted in a total of 30 abstracts for review. One was subsequently withdrawn. From the remaining 29 abstracts, 28 were approved for submission of full draft

papers. From that number, after two withdrawals, 26 full draft papers were submitted. The six technical sessions requested were reduced to five sessions granted: 2 on Monday, 2 on Tuesday, and one on Wednesday. The review and selection of final papers were influenced both by the number of paper slots in the approved sessions and by the themes of the planned presentation session. After review, 24 draft papers were “accepted pending changes” and 24 final papers were accepted and presented in five paper sessions. The business meeting, chaired by Dr. Gosink, focused primarily on the ABET approval of ASEE’s proposal to become the lead society for the accreditation review of “multidisciplinary engineering (and technology) programs and the corresponding responsibility to recruit and train qualified program evaluators.

Year 2006 and the ASEE Annual conference in Chicago

As of the end of January 2006, the Division membership had grown to 436.

A full program of paper sessions and the annual business meeting are planned by the Multidisciplinary Engineering Division for the 2006 ASEE Annual Conference in Chicago in June. Final papers for the technical sessions are currently under review.

Contact and Participation Information

Members of ASEE may affiliate with the Multidisciplinary Engineering Division (MULTI) by selecting MULTI as one of the six groups allowed with the ASEE membership. MULTI does not currently have any dues for affiliation.

The MULTI bylaws and officer contact information are available on-line via the path ASEE, Members Services, Divisions (<http://www.asee.org/members/organizations/divisions/index.cfm>), where one will find the following information.

- **Multidisciplinary Engineering - Officers, Bylaws, Web site**
This group seeks to promote and develop Multidisciplinary Engineering Education by assisting in the development of sound curricula and by representing the interests of multidisciplinary engineering on a national level with regard to accreditation, student placement, etc. The group's goal is to have membership representation from all non-traditional multidisciplinary programs. (No dues) Professional Interest Council II

The MULTI Division's own website is located at <http://engr.calvin.edu/mecc>.

II. ASEE and Its Role in ABET Accreditation of Multidisciplinary Programs

The role of the Multidisciplinary Engineering Division in ASEE’s new role in ABET accreditation of Engineering, General Engineering, Engineering Physics and Engineering Physics has been documented in the previous section. In this section, the subject is reviewed from the ASEE perspective.

ASEE’s Proposal, ABET’s Approval

The ASEE Board of Directors agreed to proceed with a proposed petition to ABET for lead society role and submitted a letter of intent during Summer 2004. ASEE submitted its initial

proposal to the ABET Executive Committee in October 2004. A revised final proposal documenting ASEE's unique qualifications to serve this constituency was prepared for ABET. It was approved without dissent by the ABET Board of Directors at its March 19, 2005, meeting. The following statements are selected from a feature article in the Summer 2005 ASEE Prism magazine by then ASEE president, Sherra Kerns:

“For some time, we've all been proud that ASEE has been a leader among engineering societies. ... Our organization shows excellence in many respects, yet that's only part of the reason that ABET designated ASEE a “Lead Society” in March 2005.

“ASEE is a founding member society of ABET, having cooperated with other societies to form ABET (then called ECPD) in 1932. Last year, the ASEE Board of Directors requested that we be designated the ABET Lead Society representing programs in engineering, general engineering, engineering technology, engineering science and engineering physics. This group includes almost 70 programs. Former ASEE President John Weese, our ABET board representative, presented our motion with supporting materials and letters of endorsement from representatives of these programs, and the ABET Board approved the action without dissent.

“As Lead Society, ASEE will select, train, assign, mentor, and evaluate the performance of evaluators for these programs, as well as provide advocacy with the Engineering Accreditation and Technology Accreditation Commissions of ABET on issues important to their success. Previously, these programs did not benefit from a Lead society.

“We will begin to serve engineering, general engineering, engineering technology, engineering science, and engineering physics programs in this role during the 2006-07 accreditation cycle. The tasks of selecting, training, assigning, and mentoring evaluators will be coordinated through our Accreditation Activities Committee, chaired by Edwin C. Jones, professor emeritus of electrical engineering at Iowa State University and an experienced domestic and international ABET evaluator and team chair. ...

“Our new status opens opportunities for all members to explore their interests and to contribute in accreditation service. Prior service as a program evaluator for another Lead Society will neither assure nor prevent eligibility for service as an ASEE program evaluator. Every ASEE member selected to be a program evaluator will be provided training.

“ ... Gaining Lead Society has required the dedication, efforts, and cooperation of many, especially Ed Jones, John Weese, ASEE Executive Director Frank Huband, Multidisciplinary Engineering Committee members Joan Gosink and Jim Farison, ASEE Liaison with the Technology Accreditation Commission Walt Buchanan, the members of the ASEE board during the past two years, and our colleagues on the ABET headquarters staff and board. ...”

ASEE's New Accreditation Activities Committee

To oversee the ASEE role in accreditation, the new ASEE Accreditation Activities Committee (AAC) was formed, with the following charge:

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1. To provide a forum for discussion of accreditation issues that are relevant to ASEE;
2. To recommend to the ASEE President one or more candidates to serve as ASEE representatives to the ABET Board of Directors;
3. To recommend to the ASEE President one or more candidates for service on the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) and on the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC);
4. To establish processes and procedures for undertaking its responsibilities, including qualifications for Program Evaluators (PEVs), with the approval of the ASEE Board of Directors or designee;
5. To select PEVs for TAC and EAC engineering/engineering science and similarly named programs in accordance with ABET rules of procedures, train and monitor ASEE PEVs, and recommend to team chairs PEVs for multidisciplinary programs;
6. To advise ASEE representatives to ABET concerning positions to be taken in ABET affairs;
7. To propose initiatives to the ABET Board of Directors or Commissions to enhance their operation;
8. To prepare a brief report for each meeting of the Board of Directors on the activities of ABET;
9. To undertake additional tasks as requested by the ASEE Board of Directors.

The AAC held its first meeting at the ASEE 2005 Conference in Portland, and comprised the following eleven members:

Edwin C. Jones, Jr., Iowa State University, emeritus (ASEE member-at-large, chair)
 Ronald Barr, University of Texas (ASEE president, ex officio)
 Sherra Kerns, Olin College (ASEE immediate past president, ex officio)
 Frank Huband, ex officio (ASEE executive director, ex officio)
 John Weese, Texas A&M University (ASEE representative to ABET Board of Directors)
 Jerry Jakubowski, Arizona State University, Polytechnic Campus (ABET EAC chair)
 Sarah Rajala, North Carolina State University (ASEE representative to ABET-EAC)
 Timothy W. Zeigler, Southern Polytechnic State University (ASEE representative to ABET-TAC)
 James Farison, Baylor University (EAC visitor assignment coordinator)
 Dave Baker, Rochester Institute of Technology (TAC visitor assignment coordinator)
 Isadore Davis, Raytheon Missile Systems (ASEE corporate member council)
 Steve Cobb, Murray State University (member-at-large, ASEE engineering physics division)
 Walter Buchanan, Northeastern University (member-at-large, ASEE engineering technology division)
 Joan Gosink, Colorado School of Mines, emerita (member-at-large, ASEE multidisciplinary engineering div.)

Tragically, the committee lost one of its most valuable and enthusiastic members when Isadore Davis passed away during the past year.

GSW Programs Now under ASEE Purview

Within the Gulf Southwest Section, which comprises the three-state area of Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas, there are six ABET EAC programs for which ASEE is expected to be the lead society.

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>MDE Program</u>	<u>Other Programs</u>
Baylor University	Waco, TX	Engineering	2
LeTourneau University	Longview, TX	Engineering	-
McNeese State University	Lake Charles, LA	Engineering	-
Texas Christian University	Fort Worth, TX	Engineering	-
Texas Tech University	Lubbock, TX	Engineering Physics	8
Trinity University	San Antonio, TX	Engineering Science	-

As is immediately apparent, such programs are provided by a diversity of institutions, from small to large, public and private. Some other well known institutions with multidisciplinary engineering programs include University of Florida, Harvard University, University of Illinois, University of Kansas, University of Oklahoma, Pennsylvania State University, Princeton University, and University of Tennessee. There is a total of some 60 institutions with one or more of these programs for which ASEE will be providing the program evaluators.

Since its first meeting in June 2005, the ASEE AAC has developed and publicized a list of desired qualifications for program evaluators, recruited and reviewed applications, and selected an initial set of program evaluators in preparation for assignments in Fall 2006. While ABET will provide the official roster of ASEE visit assignments, the current ABET website which shows the dates of institutions' next general reviews (NGR) suggests that ASEE evaluators will have assign 10-12 visitors for the 2006 accreditation cycle. While the current set of evaluators may be sufficient for the next two years, additional applications will be recruited for subsequent years. While such pools are generally rich with candidates from education, applications from qualified candidates from industry are eagerly sought. Racial and ethnic diversity is also sought.

Conclusion

ASEE is already well established for its new role as an active participant in the ABET accreditation process. The primary initial responsibility of the new AAC was to organize its procedure and criteria for, and then recruit, ASEE candidates to serve as program evaluators for ASEE's multidisciplinary engineering program accreditation review responsibility. That important process has largely been completed this spring. The next step is to plan and conduct program reviewer training sessions for the 2006-07 cycle of accreditation visits. The AAC will meet again at Chicago in June 2006 to complete its preparation for its initial cycle of visits. The new AAC is now listed on the ASEE website under Committees and has its own presence at <http://www.asee.org/members/organizations/Accreditation-Committee.cfm>.

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The author became chair, dept. of engineering, Baylor University, Waco, TX, in August 1998, then chair of the new ECE dept. in 2005. His BSEE is from the U. of Toledo, and his MSEE and PhD are from Stanford U. He is a senior member of IEEE, and a registered PE in Ohio and Texas. He is Baylor's ASEE campus rep. and was 2003 national ASEE campus rep. of the year. He is a member of ASEE's new Accreditation Activities Committee.