

## ABET Committee Meeting Minutes October 15,2002

Present:

Dr. Cheville    Dr. West  
Dr. Teague     Dr. Hagan  
Dr. Fierro      Dr. Johnson  
Justin Ford     Anna Spicer

Not Present:

Dr. Yarlagadda

Approval of the minutes from last week.

### OLD BUSINESS

**One-Hour Courses:** Dr. Hagan stated that when the one-hour courses are done right with interdisciplinary problems they can be beneficial. He also stated that smaller sections are needed to facilitate the discussion, and that these courses would have actual assignments so that the student wouldn't simply receive an "A" for attending class. Justin Ford suggested that classes involving much discussion may not be good for the average or less than average student. Dr. Cheville reminded the committee that this subject has already been agreed upon, so the question this week is how to present this to the faculty. Dr. Teague mentioned that the recommendation should be phrased as a suggestion, and that the class should be double time for half of a semester, so there isn't a full week between class periods.

-The recommendation was not approved, so we will be discussing changes to it next week.

**ECEN course survey – student survey:** Justin brought example surveys from the philosophy department. He suggested that a phrase be placed on the survey so that the student would be alerted to the fact that this survey is taken seriously, and looked at by more than one person. Dr. Johnson expressed his opinion on the instructor surveys, he does not want any performance evaluation of faculty members to be reflected on these forms, and once more asserted the fact that the survey must be based on hard data. Dr. Hagan reminded the committee that each faculty member will have to keep three student examples, but it will be up to the individual faculty member whether they want to summarize the data before or after. Dr. Johnson also posed the question of whether this is even an area that should be handled by ABET, but the rest of the committee agreed that it is. Dr. West stated that we are required by ABET to assess the ability of our graduating students. Dr. Teague brought up the fact that this survey does not directly measure faculty performance, so it can never be brought up by the department head in a performance evaluation. He also reminded the committee that whatever survey technique is decided upon can be changed from year to year. Dr. Cheville suggested that everyone on the committee return his changes to him so it can be revised in the next meeting.

-This item was tabled, so it will be decided upon next week. Everyone should be prepared to approve or disapprove the proposal.

Dr. Johnson expressed his discontent due to the fact that a committee meeting was held during Fall Break, and several things were voted on.

Dr. Cheville reminded the committee that there will be an ABET representative coming next year. He also made note of the fact that the Area of Specialization Report guidelines will be moved to next week for approval.

**Tech Writing:** Dr. West met with some people in the Technical Writing department over the last week and discovered that this course is usually put off until the last semester. He suggests making it a prerequisite for Senior Lab, so that it is at least taken by the first semester of a student's senior year. Justin mentioned that he had heard that many students hold off to take this course until they can use their senior design project for the Tech Writing course. Dr. Cheville suggested that they require the course to be taken concurrently with Design I. Dr. West explains the importance of putting the relevance of communication into the student's heads. Dr. Cheville states that the committee will need to make a recommendation to the undergraduate program committee. Dr. West is going to write up a sample recommendation letter and bring it next week. He reminds the committee that engineers make up less than half of the enrollment in this course, so we might not have as much leverage as we thought.

Dr. Cheville still wants to receive the GPA of the students who took the FE exam, so that the committee can know whether these students are good, average, etc. He also states that the committee is going to need to start putting together the teacher surveys, and getting the topics from the areas.

Dr. Johnson wonders what happened to Engineering Math replacing Vector Calculus. Dr. Cheville suggests that they recommend that 1342 and Vector Calculus be dropped to make room for the proposed one hour courses.