

ASCE "Raise The Bar" Newsletter Vol 2, No. 1

The Board-level ASCE Committee on Academic Prerequisites for Professional Practice (CAP³) has continued its effort to raise the educational requirements for future practicing civil engineers at the professional level. This effort is an ongoing, long-term effort. Below is a summary for each of our committees.

We have initiated a new subcommittee to the Committee in Academic Prerequisites for Professional Practice (CAP³). The

Levels of Competency Subcommittee is charged with the following: Review the background on how the levels were created in current version of the BOK; Address concerns regarding educational objectives and assessment challenges related to the levels; Review terminology used by ABET and consider how this is related to the levels; Recommend possible changes to the names and definitions of the different levels of competence used to define the civil engineering BOK; Recommend possible changes to the BOK profile that integrates outcomes, levels of competence, formal education, and pre-licensure experience; Coordinate with the CAP³ Curricula and Accreditation Committees and the ABET Accreditation Council; and Prepare a draft report that provides a record of the Subcommittee's opinions, plans, actions, and recommendations by **May 1, 2005**.

Body of Knowledge Fulfillment and Validation Committee

Under the leadership of Gerry Galloway, the committee has prepared a draft report related to how the BOK is fulfilled and how the attainment of the BOK can be validated. The report will be officially released in mid-April of this year. Key findings in the report include the following: the B + 30 credit pathway is a viable way to fulfill the BOK; there are several possibilities for organizations that could validate the acceptability of alternative education providers and of the coursework taken beyond the bachelor's level, including ACE, NCEES, and ABET. We will need to engage the possible players in the next 3 years as we move toward implementation.

Curricula Committee

The Curricula Committee has prepared an outline for their final report. The committee will fulfill its charge by the end of this calendar year. The committee continues to work on mapping the BOK relative to actual curricula. This process has identified many practical issues regarding aspects of the BOK. John Tawresy is chairing a subcommittee that is charged with reviewing the "Attitudes" section of the BOK. John has secured a



very diverse committee and will be forwarding some recommendations in the coming months. The committee has also added the following schools to their activity: University of Illinois-Urbana Campaign and Tufts University. We have meetings arranged for University of California-Berkeley, University of Texas at Austin, University of Wyoming, and Tennessee Tech in the coming 2 months.

Licensure Committee

The licensure committee has been busy assisting in the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying regional meetings. A presentation is being given at these meetings that covers a number of possible changes to the Model Law. One change of interest to the raise the bar effort is requiring additional



education beyond the BS at some time in the future. It is possible that at the NCEES annual meeting in Nashville, TN in August of this year that the organization could vote on recommending changing the Model Law to require additional education in the future. This would then launch another committee within NCEES to look at the specific language that would be necessary to make this happen. NCEES has been a great partner in our effort. We have also received a strong letter of support from the State of Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects for our effort to raise the education bar. We are making steady progress in the licensure area.

Accreditation Committee

The accreditation committee has had some changes in leadership. Wayne Bergstrom has become the chair of the committee and Stephen Ressler is the vice chair. The committee has drafted the following products: basic level civil engineering criteria along with supporting commentary and advanced level general criteria. The committee continues to rework these products based upon input from key ASCE stakeholders (EdAC, DHCEC, CC&A, and Department Chairs/Heads). These products will be publicly released at the ASCE National Department Chairs meeting in May at Salt Lake City as well as in June at the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) conference in Portland, Oregon. We hope to meet with the ABET Engineering Accreditation Commission during their July meeting in the Washington area.

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