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Integration of CSAB and ABET

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Abstract - The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. (ABET) and the Computing Sciences Accreditation Board (CSAB) signed a Memorandum of Agreement in November 1998 to integrate CSAB's accreditation services with ABET, with a transition time of approximately two years. During the interim period, the operations of the Computer Science Accreditation Commission (CSAC) are contracted by CSAB to ABET. A committee with CSAC, CSAB, and ABET representation is working to set up the new commission for accrediting programs in the computing sciences. This new commission will probably be called the Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC). Other activities are underway to try to assure that this integration goes as smoothly as possible.

The panel members will discuss from various points of view the current status of the integration and plans for the completion of the integration. Kenneth Martin is President of CSAB and a Past Chair of CSAC. Lee Saperstein is President of ABET and a past Chair of EAC. Doris Lidtke is Adjunct Accreditation Director for Computing at ABET and a Past President of CSAB.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

In the summer of 1999 CSAB contracted with ABET to manage the 1999-2000 accreditation cycle. This has now been extended to include the 2000-2001 cycle. Thus all communications relating to the Computer Science Accreditation Commission (CSAC), CSAB's only commission, are being supported at ABET. Institutions, individuals, team chairs and program evaluators should have seen little change in the way that CSAC operates, except for the change of address, e-mail, and telephone number which should be used for all CSAC matters. All CSAC matters should be addressed to CSAC, 111 Market, Place, Suite 1050, Baltimore, MD 21202-4012 or csac@abet.org. The phone number for CSAC is (410) 347-7701 or 7703. All inquires about accreditation, correspondence from individuals and institutions regarding accreditation, correspondence from team chairs and program evaluators, requests for consultants, and any accreditation questions or matters that directly involve CSAC, should use this new address.

Progress is being made on the proposed policies and procedures for CAC. It is anticipated that CAC will become a Commission of ABET. If this occurs, CAC will manage the accreditation of Computer Science programs for the 2001-02 cycle and beyond.

Panelists in this session come from schools with programs in science and mathematics colleges and engineering environments, as well having CSAC, CSAB, and ABET experience.

Since this panel session will after the completion of the 1999-2000 accreditation cycle, panelists can report on the CSAB Annual Meeting, the first year of visits under the CSAB contract with ABET, Criteria 2000, activities to form the new CAC under ABET, and the new role of CSAB.

This session is specifically designed to give members of the audience a chance to ask questions of the panelists.

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