

Industrial Advisory Board Meeting  
February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Participants: Mr. Chad Easterling (Dynerics), Mr. Russ Johnson (SAIC), Dr. Kelley Burgeron (MITRE), Mr. Wesley Marsh (Nucor), Mr. Lucas Folegatti, Dr. Adam Wade Lewis, Prof. Dave Fitzsimmons, Dr. Ronnie Merritt, Prof. Katia Mayfield, Mr. Daniel Caywood (student), Ms. Liza Cominotto (student)

The meeting for the Spring semester we started off with quick introductions as some of the new members had not had the chance to meet everyone and vice versa.

The projects that are currently being worked on were discussed with the planning of projects for next semester (summer).

Professor Mayfield led the meeting by discussing the official response document that was sent to ABET. In our previous meeting we had the “unofficial” comments from the visiting team, during this meeting those comments were reviewed allowed with the actions that the department has taken to address each of them.

There was also an “unofficial” update provided as to where we currently stand with ABET, however final decisions are not made until the July CAC Commission meeting in Baltimore.

Professor Mayfield also went over the results of the Annual Assessment Report for 2014-2015 and discussed the changes that were made to the Annual Assessment Plan for 2015-2016. The board agreed that some of the direct measurement changes made were good to be able to provide more accurate analysis of student performance.

Conversation was also started with the Board about how to get students to further engage in the Exit Exam that they are required to take during the Capstone course. At this moment in time the exam was only a requirement, however the Board suggested that more stakes should be present and that the department should adopt the concept used by the Math department, where students must pass the exam with a 70% or higher. In the case that a student does not pass the exam, then they will be required to take the exam again.

Student representatives on the Board also thought that the idea of a grade requirement for the exam was fair. In addition, there was discussion on how we could further assist students in preparing for the exam. During the current semester Prof. Mayfield provided the exam study guide to students 2.5 months before they take the exam. The new Assessment Plan also has analysis taking place on the individual sections of the exit exam so that the faculty can be more aware of the problematic areas for students. In which case, one of the suggestions is to have

“guest” sessions where professors attend a class to provide a “review” of the material that is found on the test. This was an idea that the student representatives thought would be helpful and the faculty will work on implementing.

The department is going to start the requirement of a 70% passing grade on the exit exams starting in the Fall 2016 semester. After the initial results from the exam are analyzed there will be additional discussion as to the next necessary steps (if needed) to assist students in preparing for the exam.

Following the discussion on assessment, there was mention of the department’s effort in hiring a fifth faculty member. Dr. Lewis then provided the board with an update on the ITE program which is currently under review for ACHE approval. Dr. Lewis also discussed the 2+2 Program with Junior Colleges and a conversation was started about bringing in representation from the Junior Colleges into the Program Advisory Board, which the board was not opposed to. We will be extending invitations to a faculty member at Calhoun Community College and at Northwest Shoals. After the initial invitations, the department plans to work on establishing a Board with Junior College representatives.

The meeting was closed with a brief discussion of the ongoing capstone projects and plans for summer projects.

#### Upcoming Spring 2016

- Re-design and enhancements to the Limestone County Sheriff’s Rodeo web presence
- Re-design and enhancements to the Athens Limestone County 911 Dispatch web presence
- Re-design and enhancements to the Athens Limestone United Way web presence
- Implementation of Molecular Biology themed Serious Educational Game for the iPad – Continued

Mr. Marsh, mentioned that there might be some collaboration that could take place between the capstone course and Nucor.

Meeting was closed with plans for the next one which will be tentatively held on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.