

ACCE Progress Report

Weaknesses

1. *The administrative leadership of the Construction Program does not meet the standards of ACCE. There is not ample time to support or fulfill the mission and goals specific to the Construction Management Program.*

There have been dramatic changes in the College of Technology (COT) at Indiana State University (ISU). The COT has a new dean, Dr. Bradford Sims. Dr. Sims received a B.S. degree in Construction from Purdue University in 1990. He was the Head of the Construction Management Department at Western Carolina University. He founded the undergraduate and online Master of Construction Management programs there. He worked closely with the ACCE in founding these programs; he was an Educator-at-Large member of the Certified Professional Constructor's National Commission and a regional director for the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC). He has created a web site called ConstructionEducation.com that maintains a wealth of construction information. He has authored numerous refereed articles about construction.

Dr. Sims has proposed a new department for the COT called the Department of the Built Environment. Possible programs within the new department are: Construction Management, Interior Design, Safety, Land Development, Construction Risk Management, Sustainability, Architectural Engineering Technology, and Civil Engineering Technology. The proposed department has the support of both President Bradley and Provost Maynard. Both Interior Design and Safety have expressed desire to join the proposed department. In an all-faculty meeting of the COT on November 6, 2009, the faculty voted to approve the new department and allow Interior Design to transfer into the COT. Safety is in the process of acquiring permission to move.

Dr. Sims has requested a new position to be the Chair of the new department. We are planning to activate the new department in fall 2010. Dr. Sims has contacts in industry interested in promoting new programs in Land Development and Construction Risk Management. We are optimistic about these new developments and are confident that they will satisfy and exceed any concerns the ACCE may have about leadership and resources.

2. *The supporting documentation for multiple areas of the curriculum did not meet ACCE Standards which made it difficult to assess the curriculum.*

The CM Program has adopted a standard format for all syllabi. This new format cross references course learning objectives to ACCE topical content requirements.

Just before the team visit in 2008, a faculty member resigned without any warning or notification; therefore, the course workbooks for his courses were not available. All current faculty are dedicated to maintaining current workbooks with documentation.

3. *The Mathematics and Science curriculum category is still one credit hour short of ACCE requirements.*

The ACCE requires a mathematics course that is more advanced than regular college algebra and trigonometry; however, the ACCE is vague on specific content. The instructor informed the visiting team that MATH 115 is beyond college algebra and trig. The Chair of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department, Dr. Stephen Pontius, has supplied a letter confirming that MATH 115 is a “pre-calculus” course. MATH 115 includes polynomial equations, systems of linear equations, translations, reflections, symmetry, functions, graphs, lines and conic sections, mathematical induction, and trigonometric functions. We have a letter from Dr. Affan Badar, Coordinator of the MET Program, stating that MET 215, Graphic Analysis, is equal to or more advance than MATH 115. At present, MET 215 is an allowed substitute for MATH 115. Until the ACCE provides specific course content, we argue that MATH 115 and MET 215 meet the ACCE requirements.

4. *The curriculum categories remain deficient in several required topics.*

The ACCE visiting team did not document which courses they assigned to each category; their report does not make this clear. However, we have addressed the following content areas as noted:

Ethics: Construction ethics is now being taught in the following courses: Introduction to Construction, Safety, Contract Documents, Quantity Take-off, Quality Control, and Construction Management.

Communications: Communications is now being taught in the following courses: Architectural Graphics, Safety, Soil Analysis and Testing, Estimating, Quality Control, Surveying, and Construction Management.

Capital equipment, depreciation, and expensing: This is now being taught in a new course, Sustainability in Construction.

Forecasting cost and cash flow requirements: This is being taught in Construction Scheduling.

Payment processes and time value of money: This is now being taught in Introduction to Construction Management. We plan to create a new course in the new Department of the Built Environment, which will be required for the CM Program as well as the new programs: Architectural Engineering Technology and Civil Engineering Technology.

Computer applications in project management: Brian Kooistra of Garmong construction is showing students in CNST 414, Construction Quality Control, how Garmong is using web-based project management software on all of their projects. A project management application will be used in Construction Management (capstone course).

Concerns

1. *Curriculum prerequisite enforcement remains a concern; however, antidotal statements by students suggest this has begun to change.*

Provost Maynard is committed to configuring DARS and Banner to enforce prerequisites as soon as possible.

The COT has adopted centralized scheduling. Ms. Froderman schedules CM students and has become very competent in doing so. She is familiar with all of the prerequisites and schedules accordingly.

CM faculty have begun to verify that all students in their courses do indeed meet the prerequisites.

2. *Recent turn-over of 3 faculty is a concern.*

Recently faculty turn-over is a result of personal ambitions and issues that are not related the quality of the CM Program. Current faculty have expressed long-term commitment to the Program.

3. *The temporary, full-time faculty member has only a Bachelor's degree which is not in keeping with the guidelines for full-time faculty as established by the University.*

Mr. Nightingale is currently enrolled in a course in a master's program and has expressed commitment to achieving a terminal degree. He has extensive industry experience and good teaching skills. We believe he is an asset to the Program.