

CSAB, Inc.
COMPUTER SCIENCE ACCREDITATION COMMISSION (CSAC)
Report of the Commission 2000-01

Transition year two to full integration with ABET

The year 2000-2001 found CSAC in the role of carrying on the accreditation activities of the organization and CAC taking the role of continued progress in terms of procedure, standards, and further integration activities with ABET. CSAC and CAC overlapped almost entirely in membership. This report is written simply from the perspective of accreditation activities.

CSAC experienced many changes and unexpected challenges in the first the year of the transition. In the second year, CSAC found that for the most part things went very smoothly. Certainly, the beginning work done by the CSAC Executive Committee, ABET staff and Doris Lidtke, the Adjunct Accreditation Director for Computing, contributed greatly toward achieving near operational normalcy.

The training function for Program Evaluators (PEVs) was fully transitioned to CSAB. Training of the program evaluators went as planned. We currently have 119 trained computer science and 16 information systems PEV's. The CSAB Program Evaluator and Program Criteria Committee (PEPC) held three training sessions and trained the following number of program evaluators. These sessions were also attended by a large number of observers from schools and industry.

Charlotte, NC – February 2001

23 for Computer Science

11 for Information Sciences

San Francisco, CA – May 2001

10 for Computer Science

Boston, MA – July 2001

5 for Information Sciences

Team Chairpersons will now be trained by CAC-ABET. Ten Team Chairpersons are scheduled for the session to be held before the July Annual Meeting. CSAC's role was to schedule the visiting team, oversee the process of institutional visits, edit preliminary and final report, review 6VR and SC reports, catalog reviews and interact with institutions on a variety of aspects of accreditation, including future accreditation.

Improvements were made to improve the accreditation processes. One was to coordinate the appointments of Team Chairpersons with ABET's timing, particularly those on joint visit teams. ABET also initiated actions to facilitate team appointments through the CSAC Vice Chair for Operations. The movement to electronic transmission of accreditation materials to facilitate the editing process is in its second year of operation. This made for faster communication and easier collaboration. The use of electronic forms added a needed level of consistency to the work of the Team Chairpersons. Further, the procedures to assure that institutions are notified of needed actions on a timely basis were improved. These changes and the continuous monitoring of quality assurance will contribute to more efficient accrediting operations.

As Chairperson of the CSAC Executive Committee I have been most fortunate to have the counsel and assistance of a truly outstanding group of people. Don Bailes, the remarkable past chairperson, served in

many roles that prepared and lead us through the integration of CSAC in ABET. Perhaps his most important contribution was to counsel me and assist the CSAC/ABET support staff. He is indeed an outstanding professional and a dedicated volunteer, who provided timely and needed help as we faced new and challenging situations. Doris Lidtke, the Adjunct Accreditation Director at ABET and one of the initiators of computer science accreditation, through her excellent work and dedication made the accreditation integration efforts look transparent to those outside the Commission. Ken Martin, the CSAB President, also provided invaluable wisdom, guidance and assistance. Thanks also to Pat LaMalva, the CSAB Executive Director of ABET.

Accreditation Activities during the year

The Executive Committee of CSAC met with CAC in Houston in January 2001. The CSAC Assembly was held in July 2001, concurrently with the ABET summer action meeting in Crystal City, Virginia. The Commission conducted 39 visits during the year, up from 27 visits last year. These included 6 new programs and 33 re-accreditation visits. Of the 39 visits, one was coordinated/joint, three were dual, three were focused (to align ABET and CSAB cycles), and three were joint. All visits were conducted using the first official version of the C2K Criteria. The following table shows the distribution of actions taken by the Commission at its Action Meeting in Crystal City in July 2001.

Action	6V	6VR	3V	2V	1V	SC2	NA
Programs	17	10	6	3	1	1	1

The Commission considered 8 interim 6VR reports. This was the second time such reports were required by CSAC and the processing went very smoothly. Four show cause reports were also reviewed and accepted by the CSAC-Executive Committee.

Conclusions

This year was remarkable not only for sustaining a continuing growth in the number of accredited programs in the computing sciences, but also for the successful implementation of the new Criteria 2000 and for the final year of integration of the CSAC accreditation activities with ABET. These successes could not have happened without the dedicated and hard work of our professional volunteers and staff. They have my gratitude and sincere thanks.

Respectively submitted,
 Elizabeth A. Unger
 CSAC Chairperson, 1999-2001