Reforming the Administrative Structure to Maintain Continuity in ABET Assessment and Evaluation: NUS CE’s Experience

Session Goals and/or ABET Criterion (Criteria) Addressed
The Civil Engineering Department of the National University of Singapore (CE, NUS) is a very large department with 45 full-time academic staff members. It is in the process of seeking substantial equivalency ABET accreditation for its program. The goal of this session is to demonstrate from its experience how the administrative structure of the department was reformed to achieve:

1. Continuity in the cycle of assessment, evaluation and improvement in the spirit of ABET 2000 philosophy
2. Reduce impact of implementing ABET’s comprehensive and extensive requirements on faculty members time by making these processes integral to Department operations
3. Divest ownership of ABET to the entire department to encourage maximal awareness and participation in the accreditation process.

Presentation Format
Format will be 40 minutes of lecture, followed by 10 minutes of discussion through questions and answers

Session Summary
The lecture would outline the brief history of the Civil Engineering Department of NUS, and its program accreditation in the past under the UK Joint Board of Moderators for Commonwealth Universities, and how the department was organized prior to ABET2000. It will cover the rationale for seeking ABET, and the process of redefining and reforming the department administrative structure to directly address the ABET requirements 3(a-k) to meet program objectives and outcomes. The lecture will demonstrate how the new structure is leaner and more efficient, and has served the purpose of streamlining the department ABET processing effort, and enable maximum participation of faculty members in the process with minimum time spent by each individual faculty on it.

Key Words
Administrative Structure, Continuity in ABET cycle, Assessment and Evaluation

Session Presenter
Associate Professor (Dr) Tan Siew Ann, Harry
Department of Civil Engineering
National University of Singapore
1 Engineering Drive 2, E1A 05-10
Singapore 117576
PH: 65-6874 2278
Fax: 65-67791635
Email: cvetansa@nus.edu.sg