



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
ACM ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999

Submitted By: John Impagliazzo

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.01 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

John Impagliazzo
(Chair), Hofstra University
(1998-2000)

Robert L. Cannon
University of South Carolina, Columbia
(1998-2000)

Neal S. Coulter
University of North Florida
(1998-2000)

Dennis J. Frailey
Raytheon TI Systems
(1998-2000)

Lawrence G. Jones
Software Engineering Institute
(1998-2000)

See Appendix A for detail information of Committee members.

1.02 COMMITTEE CHARTER

[Policy and Procedures Guidelines - Division 8, Section 2, Subsection 1]

The Accreditation Committee is a standing committee under the Education Board. The Committee shall be concerned with all matters regarding accreditation of educational programs in the computer field and the certification of computing professionals.

The scope of the Committee shall include:

1. Interaction with external accreditation or certification agencies involved with the accreditation or evaluation of programs in the computer field or with the certification of professionals in the computer field;
2. Providing nominees from the ACM membership to serve as evaluators for activities such as the Computer Science Accreditation Commission (CSAC);
3. To participate in the investigation of the need for additional accreditation activities, including joint participation with other professional societies where appropriate.

The voting membership of the Committee shall be a Chair, plus additional members as determined by the Chair of the Education Board to be needed in order to accomplish the objectives of the Committee. The Committee members are appointed as specified in Bylaw 8, and terms of office are also as specified in Bylaw 8.

1.03 COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

Education Board ==> Accreditation Committee ==> Ad Hoc Subcommittees
Ad Hoc Subcommittees are task-oriented subcommittees headed by one or more committee members.

1.04 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tempe, Arizona, Mission Palms Hotel, 1998 November 6-7. [At the FIE'98 Conference] New Orleans, Louisiana, Radisson Hotel, 1999 March 27, planning meeting. [At the SIGCSE'99 Symposium]

2.0 PROJECT SUMMARY

2.01 COMMITTEE BUDGET

The Committee submitted an operating budget request for \$20,000 to the Education Board for its consideration. The request anticipated greater outreach activities and expected more frequent meetings with a subgroup of the Educational Activities Board (EAB) of the IEEE Computer Society. See Appendix B. ACM Allocation: \$10,000.

Status: Ongoing

2.02 EDUCATION BOARD

Two members of the Committee (Impagliazzo and Cannon) attended a meeting of the Education Board in 1998 October. Because of its continuing activities, the Committee will retain its current structure and status relative to the Board.

Status: Ongoing

2.03 COMMITTEE CHARTER AND NAME

The Committee decided not to change its name or to change its charter at this time. The charter is broad enough to satisfy any new activities under consideration.

Status: Terminated

2.04 PROGRAM EVALUATORS AND THE COMPUTER SCIENCE ACCREDITATION COMMISSION (CSAC)

The CSAC has made no request for new program evaluators (PE) for the 1998-99 accreditation cycle. The Committee will hold all PE applications for the next fiscal year.

The Committee believes that both the Committee and the Educational Activities Board (EAB) of the IEEE Computer Society should review the final list of nominations before submitting the list to the CSAC. This should be a topic for discussion at the next joint meeting of both societies.

Status: Ongoing

2.05 PROFESSIONALISM

The Committee has sponsored a panel at FIE'98 to discuss professional issues related to accreditation, licensing, and certification. The Committee had plans to write a paper describing the professional framework (accreditation, certification, licensing) that came about from the 1997 San Jose retreat. This activity has now migrated as a project of the Education Board.

Status: Ongoing

2.06 THE COMPUTING SCIENCES ACCREDITATION BOARD (CSAB)

Discussion surrounded the brief memorandum of understanding that the ABET and the CSAC had signed 31 October 1998 stating that ABET and CSAB intend to integrate operations over the next two years. The Committee is considering such responsibilities as the selection and training of program evaluators and team chairs, which includes the area of software engineering. This is dependent on how CSAB and ABET will work out the details. If the new CSAB/ABET integration follows

procedures currently used by the ABET, the CSAB will take the responsibility for selection, training, and assignment of visitors. Also, the CSAB will be a cooperating society for computer engineering. This gives the CSAB a responsibility to provide nominations for computer engineering.

Status: Ongoing

2.07 INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION ISSUES

The Committee notes that the ABET has an aggressive involvement in international accreditation. The CSAB should make sure that it is also involved. The Committee believes strongly that the ACM should be a joint sponsor for any future meetings related to international accreditation. It should discuss this topic with the IEEE Computer Society.

Status: Ongoing

2.08 MEETING WITH IEEE/CS

The Committee has met with a representative from the IEEE Computer Society at its November meeting. The two groups agreed to cooperate in every way possible to ensure a smooth transition of the CSAB into the ABET. The Committee also proposed joint panel presentations on the CSAB/ABET integration and on software engineering at the FIE'99 conference. The FIE program committee has accepted both panel proposals.

One area of cooperation is to provide immediate nominations for software engineering accreditation visitors. The Committee named Lynn Carter, Neal Coulter, Dennis Frailey, and Larry Jones as immediate nominees who would be available when the software engineering accreditation process begins.

An apparent difference between the CSAB and the ABET processes is that the IEEE (a member of the ABET board) requires a nominee to be a Senior Member. Also, the requirements for visits for computer engineering, software engineering, and computer science do differ. In a CSAC visit, the team visits a program; for an ABET visit, there is only one person assigned to a program. The Committee should understand the EAC procedures better when it nominates people for computer engineering and software engineering. In addition, the CSAB needs to have more industry involvement beyond the program evaluator level. Society membership remains a requirement.

Status: Ongoing

2.09 MEETING WITH IEEE

One Committee member (Jones) attended the IEEE annual Committee on Engineering Accreditation Activities (CEAA) meeting in Colorado Springs in 1999 January. The CEAA appears to handle a mix of functions performed by the CSAB,

the CSAC, the ACM Accreditation Committee, and the corresponding IEEE/CS committee. The CEAA performs the functions that the ACM Accreditation Committee and IEEE/CS Committee do with regard to program evaluator nominations to the CSAC. They also take responsibility for training and evaluation of program evaluators and team chairs. The CEAA has about twenty members with heavy industry participation where the notions of process and quality assessment are clearly understood. One implication is that the CSAB can and should function as a full and true society that sponsors the CSAC and other related activities.

2.10 SOFTWARE ENGINEERING ACCREDITATION CRITERIA

The Joint Software Engineering Committee (Frailey is a member) criteria and the EAC Software Engineering criteria appear to be in harmony with each another. The current Joint version has a Preamble added to the version published in IEEE Computer.

Status: Ongoing

2.11 ABET

The ABET has received an NSF grant for training visitors using the new ABET Criteria. The CSAB should consider seeking similar support.

Status: Ongoing

2.12 INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Committee assumes that it will be actively involved in the possible accreditation of information systems programs. This activity and all other accreditation activities fall under its charter.

Status: Ongoing

2.13 DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS

Distance learning is being pursued through different avenues. Some of this is directly attributable to actions by this Committee. The Open University of the U.K. has made contact with Florida State University. It has also established its own program in the United States. The CSAC has appointed a committee to address distance learning accreditation issues.

Status: Ongoing

2.14 OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Committee decided that there was currently little interest in ACM lectureship talks on accreditation. Interest may pick up in the future. It also discussed the idea of CSAB taking a for-profit role in consulting for pre-accreditation visits now that the accreditation activities will be the responsibility of the ABET.

Status: Ongoing

2.15 CSAB BROCHURE

Due to the changes that will result from the ABET/CSAB integration, the Committee will delay any work on producing a new accreditation brochure. The contents of such a brochure would be appropriate information for a CSAB web page.

Status: Hold

3.0 PLANS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING 2000 JUNE 30

3.01 PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED

No project will end in the next fiscal year.

3.02 CHANGES AND MILESTONES

All ongoing projects in Section 2 will continue. The Committee expects to work closely with the EAB of the IEEE/CS in providing support in whatever manner possible to ensure a uniform transition in the CSAB/ABET integration.

The Committee considered the possibility of serving as a joint committee or subcommittee that the ACM Education Board and the IEEE/CS Education Activities Board would sponsor. This could solve some problems of consistency and be a unifying influence on mutually beneficial issues. One primary issue is the selection of program evaluators for the CSAC in the new CSAB/ABET integration

3.03 NEW PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Continued vigilance as the CSAB/ABET integration evolves.

4.0 COMMENTS

The Committee offers its assistance in whatever appropriate capacity to support the CSAB/ABET transition. This includes assistance in selecting, nominating, training, and evaluating program evaluators for programs where the CSAB has

responsibility. It also includes its support in any international accreditation activity.

Appendix A

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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APPENDIX B

ACM Accreditation Committee Proposed 1999-2000 Budget

Acct Name	Acct #	Amount
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Staff Travel	811	0.
Vol Travel	812	14,000.
Temporary Help	826	0.
Communications (Telephone)	833	100.
Mailing & Handling	834	150.
Staty/Supp/Furn	835	100.
Printing	836	2,000.
Copy & Duplicating	837	100.
Equip Rent & Service	838	0.
Other Prof Services	869	0.
Payments Out / Orgs	881	0.
Meetings & Spec Funs	882	4,000.
Other Misc Expenses	889	550.
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TOTAL:		20,000.

ACM/Accreditation Committee.
 Last Update: March 9, 2000 by [Patrick J. De Blasi](#)

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