EECS Department Meeting
Wednesday, February 3rd, 2010

3:30 pm – 3:50 pm – Presentation I

Oh No, Not another ABET Visit!

Abstract – It is well known to engineering educators that they must continually assess and improves their academic programs, demonstrating that they are meeting the objectives of their programs. It is an understatement to say that preparing for and maintaining ABET accreditation is a monumental challenge. Assessment offers many benefits, but it can be frustrating to faculty and administrators who are not experts in assessment. Further, they must continually adapt to changing expectations of ABET and its accreditation teams.

3:50 – 4:00 pm – Discussion/questions
4:00 – 4:10 pm Coffee Break
4:10 – 4:40 pm – Presentation II

The Capstone Engineering Design Experience at Penn State Erie – A model of industry Engagement

Abstract – The School of Engineering at Penn State Erie has developed a unique senior capstone project experience. The majority of the projects across our engineering programs are industrially sponsored and nearly 70 individual projects are undertaken each year. At the end of each year our student teams present their results at Richard J. Fasenmyer Engineering Design Conference. Penn State Erie has a series of processes to ensure high quality capstone design projects are developed. They address several aspects of the capstone design experience, including project selection, problem definition, ABET accreditation requirements, teamwork, program outcome evaluation and assessment, and relationships with industrial sponsors. The processes were developed and implemented over a period of 15 years, and the results have been quite positive.

4:40 pm – 5:00 pm – Discussion/Questions

Dr. Ford is the Director of the School of Engineering at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. He has been an ABET program evaluator for six years and been through a number of accreditation visits at his home institution. He will share his experiences, observations, and thoughts on the ABET accreditation process. He will discuss how program assessment and ABET accreditation processes can be improved.