Panel: Computing Accreditation Commission Moves to General and Program Specific Criteria

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Abstract – The panelists will discuss the proposed ABET Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC) General Criteria and the Program Specific Criteria for computer science, information systems and information technology. The General Criteria for Accreditation of Computing Programs is currently on the ABET website and comments are being solicited. When this General Criteria is approved it will apply to all programs accredited by the CAC. Programs in computer science, information systems and information technology will also have to meet the Program Specific criteria for their own area. The criteria for these programs have been developed and are currently in the approval process. The Program Specific Criteria will, if approved by the ABET Board in November, also be available for public comment.

Index Terms – Accreditation, Computing Accreditation Commission, General Criteria for Accreditation of Computing Programs, Program Specific Criteria

Computing accreditation is moving forward rapidly and changes are anticipated. In November 2003 the ABET Board accepted for first reading the proposed General Criteria for Accrediting Computing Programs. The second reading, which will mean final adoption, of these criteria is expected in November 2005. Specific Criteria are being developed by CSAB, Inc. for programs in each of the following areas: Computer Science, Information Systems, and Information Technology. It is anticipated that these Program Specific Criteria will be presented to the Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC) of ABET in July of 2004 and should go to the ABET Board for first reading in late October 2004. The FIE conference provides an excellent forum for discussion of the proposed General Criteria for all computing programs and the Program Specific Criteria for computer science, information systems and information technology.

For this panel session three people very familiar with the proposed criteria will briefly present the proposed criteria, so that we can have a very lively discussion and make all the attendees aware of their opportunity to provide feedback on these documents not only at the session, but when they are published on the ABET website.

During the 2004-05 accreditation cycle some computing programs will have pilot visits under the General Criteria for Computing Programs. By the time of the FIE conference, these pilot programs will be underway and discussion of the General Criteria will provide a further basis for interactive learning. At least one representative from a program that hosted a pilot visit will be a presenter at the session.

Since it is anticipated that some pilot visits to Information Technology programs will occur in 2005-06, this maybe of special interest to faculty from IT programs.

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