August 05, 2013

Reza Abbaschian
Dean, Bourns College of Engineering
University of California, Riverside
Winston Chung Hall -Suite 446
Riverside, CA 92521

Dear Dr. Abbaschian:

The Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET recently held its 2013 Summer Meeting to act on the program evaluations conducted during 2012-2013. Each evaluation was summarized in a report to the Commission and was considered by the full Commission before a vote was taken on the accreditation action. The results of the evaluation for University of California, Riverside are included in the enclosed Summary of Accreditation Actions. The Final Statement to your institution that discusses the findings on which each action was based is also enclosed.

The policy of ABET is to grant accreditation for a limited number of years, not to exceed six, in all cases. The period of accreditation is not an indication of program quality. Any restriction of the period of accreditation is based upon conditions indicating that compliance with the applicable accreditation criteria must be strengthened. Continuation of accreditation beyond the time specified requires a reevaluation of the program at the request of the institution as noted in the accreditation action. ABET policy prohibits public disclosure of the period for which a program is accredited. For further guidance concerning the public release of accreditation information, please refer to Section II.A. of the 2012-2013 Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual (available at www.abet.org).

A list of accredited programs is published annually by ABET. Information about ABET accredited programs at your institution will be listed in the forthcoming ABET Accreditation Yearbook and on the ABET web site (www.abet.org).

It is the obligation of the officer responsible for ABET accredited programs at your institution to notify ABET of any significant changes in program title, personnel, curriculum, or other factors which could affect the accreditation status of a program during the period of accreditation stated in Section II.H. of the 2012-2013 Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual (available at www.abet.org).

Assuring Quality - Stimulating Innovation
Please note that appeals are allowed only in the case of Not to Accredit actions. Also, such appeals may be based only on the conditions stated in Section II.L. of the 2012-2013 Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual (available at www.abet.org).

Sincerely,

David B. Beasley, Chair
Engineering Accreditation Commission

Enclosure: Summary of Accreditation Action
           Final Statement

cc: Timothy P. White, Chancellor
    Mitch Boretz, Technical Communications Specialist
    John L. Vian, Visit Team Chair
ABET
Engineering Accreditation Commission
Summary of Accreditation Actions
for the
2012-2013 Accreditation Cycle

University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA

Bioengineering (B.S.)
Material Science and Engineering (B.S.)

Accredit to September 30, 2019. A request to ABET by January 31, 2018 will be required to initiate a reaccreditation evaluation visit. In preparation for the visit, a Self-Study Report must be submitted to ABET by July 01, 2018. The reaccreditation evaluation will be a comprehensive general review.

This is a newly accredited program. Please note that this accreditation action extends retroactively from October 01, 2011.

Chemical Engineering (BS)
Computer Engineering (BS)
Electrical Engineering (BS)
Environmental Engineering (BS)
Mechanical Engineering (BS)

Accredit to September 30, 2019. A request to ABET by January 31, 2018 will be required to initiate a reaccreditation evaluation visit. In preparation for the visit, a Self-Study Report must be submitted to ABET by July 01, 2018. The reaccreditation evaluation will be a comprehensive general review.
Final Statement of Accreditation
to
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA

2012-13 Accreditation Cycle
Assuring Quality • Stimulating Innovation
Introduction & Discussion of Statement Construct

The Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET has evaluated the bioengineering, chemical engineering, computer engineering, electrical engineering, environmental engineering, material science and engineering, and mechanical engineering programs of the University of California, Riverside.

This statement is the final summary of the EAC evaluation at the institutional and engineering-program levels. It includes information received during due process. This statement consists of two parts. The first addresses the institution and its overall engineering educational unit, and the second addresses the individual engineering programs. It is constructed in a format that allows the reader to discern both the original visit findings and subsequent progress made during due process. A program’s accreditation action is based upon the findings summarized in this statement. Actions depend on the program’s range of compliance or non-compliance with the criteria. This range can be construed from the following terminology:

- **Deficiency**: A deficiency indicates that a criterion, policy, or procedure is not satisfied. Therefore, the program is not in compliance with the criterion, policy, or procedure.

- **Weakness**: A weakness indicates that a program lacks the strength of compliance with a criterion, policy, or procedure to ensure that the quality of the program will not be compromised. Therefore, remedial action is required to strengthen compliance with the criterion, policy, or procedure prior to the next review.
Final Statement

University of California, Riverside

- Concern: A concern indicates that a program currently satisfies a criterion, policy, or procedure; however, the potential exists for the situation to change such that the criterion, policy, or procedure may not be satisfied.

- Observation: An observation is a comment or suggestion that does not relate directly to the current accreditation action but is offered to assist the institution in its continuing efforts to improve its programs.

The University of California, Riverside is one of 10 universities within the University of California system. It has a current enrollment of over 21,000 students and is recognized as one of the most ethnically diverse research universities in the nation. The university’s first engineering program was accredited in 1994. The Bourns College of Engineering currently has five accredited engineering programs. All of the currently accredited programs were evaluated during this visit along with the bioengineering and material science and engineering programs that were evaluated for initial accreditation. The programs in the college have a total enrollment of approximately 2,263 undergraduate students.

The following units were reviewed and found to adequately support the engineering programs: mathematics, chemistry, political science, physics, sociology, history, library, information technology, university writing, career services, registrar, and admissions.

Institutional Strength

1. It was noted that over 50 percent of the engineering student body participates in one or more of the 22 professional societies associated with the college. This level of membership and participation is exemplary. In addition, the student professional society Club Room appears to provide an outstanding setting for visibility and interaction among the various society organizations. The multi-disciplinary awareness and leadership skills development promoted by these activities serve the students well as they prepare to enter engineering practice or graduate programs.
Institutional Observations

1. There appears to be an opportunity to select best practices from the various engineering programs, and apply those across the college of engineering to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the continuous improvement processes.

2. The mathematics unit relies heavily on short-term contract instructors, which might be affecting the ability to provide uniform and consistent coverage of mathematics topics in the engineering sections.

3. The university writing unit might explore opportunities to enhance its support of the engineering programs through better coordination with the technical writing courses that are offered within the Bourns College of Engineering.
Introduction
The electrical engineering program was established in 1989 and has 20 full-time-equivalent tenured or tenure-track faculty positions that are covered by 23 individuals. Enrollment for the 2011-12 academic year was 282 students with 32 degrees awarded. The program has graduated 558 students since its inception.

Program Concern
1. Criterion 4. Continuous Improvement This criterion requires that the program regularly use appropriate, documented processes for assessing and evaluating the extent to which the program educational objectives are being attained. While the criterion is currently met, the process which is based on surveying graduates appears to be struggling to collect statistically significant and useful data from recent graduates, whose input is important to assess the effect of recent curricular and instructional changes. Process enhancements and special efforts may be required to avoid jeopardizing future compliance with this criterion.

- Due-process response: The EAC acknowledges receipt of documentation stating that the program plans to move forward following a process which will conform to the 2013-2014 ABET accreditation criteria which eliminate the requirement for assessment and evaluation to determine achievement of program educational objectives.

- The concern remains unresolved.

- The Engineering Accreditation Commission notes that an approved change to the 2013-2014 Criteria for Accrediting Engineering Programs removes the requirement for assessing and evaluating the extent to which the program educational objectives are attained. Instruction from the ABET Board of Directors concerning implementation of this change renders this shortcoming moot in the future. No further action is expected from the
program relative to assessment and evaluation of the extent to which program educational objectives are attained.

- The concern is resolved.