

**Meeting of the
Deans, Associate Deans, and Department Heads of the
Southeastern Conference's Colleges of Engineering**



**Meeting
Date and
Location**

Date: Wednesday, July 23 and Thursday, July 24, 2008
Location: Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN

Agenda

Wednesday, July 23rd

- 8:00 – 9:00 Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 – 10:30 Introductory Session – Overviews of Colleges (Chuck Karr, University of Alabama)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 Keynote Session – Dr. Mark Becker – Update on SEC Provosts Group
Chief Academic Officer from USC
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:30 Working Session 1 – Engineer of 2020 (Kevin Whitaker, University of Alabama)
- 2:30 – 3:00 Break
- 3:00 – 4:30 Working Session 2 – Recruitment, Retention, and Pipeline (Carol Gattis,
University of Arkansas)
- 6:00 Dinner (sponsored by University of Arkansas)

Thursday, July 24th

- 8:00 – 9:00 Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 – 10:30 Working Session 3 – Graduate Education (Harry Ploehn, University of South
Carolina)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 12:30 Working Session 4 – Joint Research Initiatives (A.M. Rajendran, University of
Mississippi)
- 12:30 – 1:30 Lunch
- 1:30 – 2:00 Final Session – Recap (Tom Lester, University of Kentucky)

Wednesday, July 23rd

Working Session 1 – The Engineer of 2020

As engineering educators, we must prepare our graduates now for a future that will be dramatically different. Rapid technological change, globalization, growing population, increasing environmental issues, and looming energy shortages will certainly change the practice of engineering in the future. Engineering education must change as well and this change must go well beyond any of those made during the last decade in response to the ABET's EC2000 and a number of other reports published in the 1990s.

Students entering engineering colleges this year as freshmen will, on average, be 30 years old in 2020 and most likely will still have 35 plus years left in their careers. What will the practice of engineering be like in 2020, and what will the graduates of our engineering programs be doing then? Will the students we are educating today be prepared for the world of 2020? If not, what changes need to be made to our engineering curriculum to ensure that our engineering graduates are prepared for that world?

Working Session 2 – Recruitment, Retention, and Pipeline

Thursday, July 24th

Working Session 3 – Graduate Education

The topic of “graduate education” has many facets with relative importance that certainly differ across disciplines and institutions. The four presentations in this working session are intended to highlight particular facets of graduate education and stimulate discussion of possible synergies within our group. Estimated times for presentation plus discussion of each topic are indicated.

“Recruiting Doctoral Students – Practices, Successes, and Challenges” (25 min)

Rita A. Burrell (Manager, Graduate and Distance Education, Bagley College of Engineering, Mississippi State University)

“International Aspects of Graduate Education” (25 min)

Samir El-Ghazaly (Department Head, Distinguished Professor, and Twenty-First Century Leadership Chair in Engineering, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Arkansas)

“A Professional Development Seminar for Graduate Students” (20 min)

Michael A. Matthews (Professor and Chair, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of South Carolina)

“Sharing Engineering Courses and Programs via Distance Education Collaboration” (20 min)

Terry Martin (Associate Dean of Engineering & Professor of Electrical Engineering, University of Arkansas)

Working Session 4 – Joint Research Initiatives