

PRESIDENTS/MEMBER BOARD ADMINISTRATORS (MBA) ASSEMBLY
NCEES
FEBRUARY 1-4-2001
Phoenix, Arizona

by Dr. Robert Miller, Alaska Board Vice-Chair
Nancy Hemenway, Executive Administrator

February 1 - MBA Networking Group, Nancy Hemenway

The MBA Networking Group held an organizational session on Thursday, February 1, 2001. The NCEES decided at the 2000 Annual Meeting to disband the MBA Committee in favor of a developing a system that potentially could foster more participation by board administrators. This networking group has the advantage of all member board administrator's involvement, rather than the four regional members.

The group elected a member from each zone to represent them at Zone and annual meetings:

Peggy Abshagen, Delaware Board	Northeast Zone
Regina Dinger, Alabama Board	Southern Zone
Milton Barr, Missouri Board	Midwest Zone
Anona (Noni) Johnson, Nevada Board	Western Zone

The MBAs discussed at length the process of having an MBA member participate at the Board of Director's (BOD) meetings. It was decided that one of the Zone members (or an alternate) would be selected to participate based on their interest and availability of time. Individual MBAs should talk to their board members and express support for the inclusion of an MBA to serve (non-voting) on the BOD in the capacity of a resource advisor. The MBA could have input prior to the BOD adopting changes that may adversely affect the administrator's function.

The engineering and land surveying issues and trends discussed were licensure mobility and how NCEES could encourage individual boards to adopt a simple applicant by comity processing of quick turnaround for applicants, particularly those holding an NCEES model law engineer council record.

Candie Kolb, North Dakota Board investigator gave a discussion on fraudulent documents. Anyone with computer skills can make fake verifications and unless board staff is diligent in scrutinizing the envelopes and postmarks, these fraudulent documents can become part of an applicant's application. MBAs expressed interest in having NCEES develop their secure website as a means of exchanging verifications.

NCEES leadership gave updates on Computer based testing, the MBA survey, ELSE program and exams. The NCEES began offering new exam administration services (ELSES) when Arizona's private contractor failed to serve them. They will offer these services to Louisiana this April. NCEES discussed exam administration issues. The Computer Based Testing Task Force has made recommendations that will be released at the Zone meetings. One consideration has been to conduct a FE Beta test pilot. However, while administrators and council tended to favor the simplicity of computer based testing, the video and preliminary results showed students preferred to use the computer as a tool and have a paper/pencil test. No indication was given to hint at the forthcoming recommendations.

NCEES is considering changing exam dates to either early April or mid-April as a result of Passover dates and Easter Dates. Most MBAs have not encountered complaints or special consideration for travel near Easter. The MBAs also suggested that if the April exam dates change, the October exam dates should also be changed or exam reviews would be too close to the next exam.

The MBAs told the NCEES staff how much they appreciated inclusion and funding in this assembly/workshops.

February 2-3, -General Presidents Assembly Session, Bob Miller & Nancy Hemenway

President Cottingham made comments on his goals for the NCEES: Exams, Mobility, Promoting Licensure, Strategic Planning, and Evaluation of Qualifications for Licensure. A new task force was started for the latter. As he works toward these goals he is examining the relevance to stakeholders (are the exams relevant?), the new NSPE model, FE pass rates, ABET strategic plan, and the Canadian model for structured intern programs. Trends are for increased licensure mobility for individuals and firms. He indicated that most jurisdictions are issuing a generic "professional" engineering license with about 8-10 states offering "discipline specific" licenses. He noted that as we discuss 'specialty' certification we may move in a direction of offering a license, much as doctors do, with individuals specializing in specific engineering disciplines. Cottingham believes in the "3E system;" education, examination, experience.

National Registration/State Licensure: While national registration has been discussed, President Cottingham is not certain that it benefits states or is the appropriate outcome. The goal is for one-day model law engineer (MLE) comity turnaround and he encouraged all states to develop fast-track procedures for processing comity applications. At present, only 1 out of 5 eligible engineers is licensed.

Report on National Registration: "Prior to" issue raises question if experience must precede completion of the PE exam. How is "coop. time" counted? Committee recommended up to 1 year of credit. Another recommendation was 1-year experience for MS and 2 years for Ph.D.

The Engineer Licensure Qualifications Task Force is comprised of members from each region and has participation by a number of organizations (ASCE, ASME, IEE, ACSC, NSPE, and ABET). They will meet April 6-7, 2001 and will report at the Zone meeting. The subcommittees are in the process of rewriting the Model Law Engineer (MLE) in terms of sequence of requirements. President Cottingham's research shows that the model law has changed since 1991, and he discovered that the requirement for 4 years work experience prior to taking the P.E. exam wasn't in the '91 MLE definition.

As part of the discussion about updating council records, one member was interested in knowing if lapsed licensees would have to re-test, which seemed unlikely. The President indicated one area that will be addressed next year would be council record fees for expired or lapsed licenses and reinstatements. Members also asked NCEES to better publicize options for inactive licenses and associated fees. NCEES indicated that NCEES fees are: establish initial record \$125; \$25 per year for updating the record; and \$45 to have a council record transmitted to an individual state. Out of 500,000 PE's only 8000 participate in the records program.

Treasurer's Report

Elaine Fink, Minnesota Board, gave a brief overview of the Treasurer's report for the NCEES. Examination revenues are not in yet, but the council is in good shape. No figures were distributed but Elaine will mail us a copy. It does appear that the Council is in good financial condition. Exam fees are over 50% of income.

MBA Networking Report

Jerry Carter, North Carolina MBA, gave the report on the MBA's work at this meeting and indicated the MBAs are glad to be included and expressed interest for continued funding for their participation.

Strategic Planning

The tool for the strategic planning sessions is the NCEES 2000 Strategic Planning Survey sent to states and to individual members. There was approximately a 36% response to the survey from boards, administrators, and individuals. There were about 787 surveys mailed out with about 293 returned. Of the 37% return, 62% were from current members; 21% from emeritus, and 12% from administrators. The error was $\pm 5\%$. As a result of the survey, NCEES found some answers seemed to reflect a different outcome than the '99 survey done at the Buffalo meeting, so a straw poll was done on about 8 questions. That information will be factored in as part of the outcome.

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NCEES hired a consultant to assist them in its planning process. The facilitator discussed areas that NCEES is interested in determining input from jurisdictions for the direction that NCEES will take, particularly in areas that the preliminary survey responses indicated the group was split, or somewhat split. Those areas included: Sharing FE Scoring Data for Outcomes Assessment; Sharing this data with universities; Modular FE (should we think about 2-3 hour modules?); Splintering Exams/Proliferation (what new specialty exams should be offered?); and Mentoring program (Should a mentoring program be developed?). Only 22% of respondents thought mentoring was important, but students thought it was a good idea.

Splintering Exams: At present ABET recognizes about 30 disciplines. Exams come from disciplines. It takes approximately 100 exams taken over 5 years as a minimum break-even point for NCEES. Otherwise the exam integrity is at risk and it is not cost effective. Right now, Group I exams support the viability for all Group II exams for NCEES. The Aerospace exam dropped off because there were not enough exams taken to support it. If the number of exam takers is too low the exam loses statistical validity.

Saturday February 3, 2001 meeting:

The group was split into 13 small groups to discuss a variety of issues concerning Mobility, International Mobility, Exams, and Land Surveying, with each group identifying goals, rationale and objectives for each. One idea was a basic qualification in surveying and then specialties in topography, GIS and photogrammetry.

The afternoon was spent finishing summarizing the group's work and members voting for issues most important to them. The areas of most interest to members are, Interstate Mobility for Comity applicants, promotion of wider use of the FE exam, International Mobility, and a Land Surveyor Discipline Specific exam (example was that physicians offer a general license with specialties). The NCEES and Advisory Committee on Council Activities Committee (CCAC) will continue work on the strategic plan using the input from this assembly.

It was reported that NSPE President Al Miller wants to grant membership to ABET program graduates as "engineering professionals." This does not please NCEES. Other issues raised included "industrial exemption" and mobility for corporations.