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Inside **AABI**

The Newsletter on Worldwide Aviation Accreditation

Aviation Accreditation Board International

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BEST PRACTICES WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON OUTCOMES-BASED EDUCATION

At its regularly scheduled winter meeting held in Mesa, Arizona, the **Aviation Accreditation Board International** (AABI) hosted a lecture-based and interactive Best Practices Workshop that offered a general orientation to assessment of student learning and focused on examples of outcomes and evidence. Institutional representatives and visiting team members gathered information and shared experiences with others, received one-on-one mentoring and peer feedback. Best of all, workshop participants returned home equipped to move from prescriptive standards to outcomes-based criteria.

The Outcomes Resource & Training Committee, chaired by Dr. Wayne Dornan (Middle Tennessee State University), collaborated with the chairs of the AABI Standing Operating Committees (Criteria, Accreditation and Guidance) to create a discussion-based, cooperative seminar for educators and industry representatives to learn about objectives and outcomes, assessment methods and evidence to validate student-learning outcomes. The Committee also introduced several newly-created forms to assist with the transition to the outcomes-based environment.

Part I of the Institutional Training Workshop included detailed descriptions of policies and procedures, and an overview of the AABI accreditation process—for initial accreditation or reaffirmation. Part II was an interactive session focusing on best evidence. Through assigned seating; which mixed participants based on experience, and where possible, included one visiting team chair and one industry member; workshop groups were assigned sections of the Self-Study Report (SSR, Form 204). The groups worked on examples of outcomes and evidence. Outcomes Resource & Training Committee members were assigned to groups to provide one-on-one mentoring with the roundtable discussions. Once groups completed their examples, a group spokesperson described their work

product. Then all in attendance provided peer feedback on each SSR section.

The afternoon Visiting Team Workshop reviewed the evidence examples from the institutional workshop from a visiting team member's perspective. The session concluded with a demonstration of the new on-line training site currently under construction, through the assistance of Mrs. Elizabeth Bjerke and the

University of North Dakota. Bjerke described the capabilities of the site, as well as future potential abilities including using the secure site for institutions to upload SSRs, appendices and evidence. Institutions would be assigned a username and password to access the site and upload the materials, and once the Self-Study Report received final approval from the executive director and chair of the Accreditation Committee, access would be withdrawn for the institution and given to the visiting team members. As construction of the site continues, plans are being made for an institutional workshop, with specific step-by-step



See BEST PRACTICES on page 5

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AABI is grateful to Arizona State University for hosting the 2008 Winter Meeting in Mesa, Arizona.

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Thank you!

AABI NEWLY ACCREDITED AND REAFFIRMED PROGRAMS

At its meeting held in Mesa, Arizona, February 20, 2008, the Aviation Accreditation Board International's Board of Trustees, responding to a recommendation from its Accreditation Committee, accredited the following programs:

Auburn University

B.S. Aviation Management
B.S. Aviation Management – Flight Education

Jacksonville University

B.S. Aviation Management*
B.S. Aviation Management and Flight Operations*

Purdue University

B.S. Aviation Management
B.S. Aeronautical Technology
B.S. Professional Flight Technology

Each program was accredited for a period of five years.

*Initial accreditation.

***In the future, there will be two types of collegiate aviation programs:
Those that are AABI-accredited, and those that will be.***

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

AABInternational

Colleagues:

During the last AABI meeting, the Corporate Communications and the Strategic Planning Committees deliberated at some length about our means of explaining to our constituencies why accreditation is worthwhile.

Dr. Tim Brady, dean of the College of Aviation at Embry-Riddle, reported that Professor Antonio Cortes of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is preparing a longitudinal study, the context of which is best described quoting a message from Professor Cortes: "We are using 'training yield' as a placeholder measurement term which assesses the relative success of new hire pilots during the different phases of the initial-hire process up through IOE and beyond. The ultimate goal of the research will be to correlate how well the different sources of initial pilot training prepare pilots for success in the regional airline industry. Although the research is in its initial phase, it could ultimately be used to correlate initial training sources with success during the following 11 points in the career of a regional airline pilot:

- A. Success of applicants in attaining an interview offer during initial application screening.
- B. Success in passing the new hire interview(s).
- C. Success in passing the background checks.
- D. Success in passing initial ground school tests.
- E. Success in passing simulator training without extra training time.
- F. Success in completing IOE without extra training time.
- G. Pilot retention at six months, one year, and five years after date-of-hire.
- H. Success in passing upgrade ground school tests.
- I. Success in passing upgrade simulator training without extra training time.
- J. Success in completing captain IOE without extra training time.
- K. Retention of newly upgraded captains six months, one year, and five years after upgrade.

"Although undoubtedly a long-term research undertaking, the results garnered from such an investigation may potentially increase the efficiency and reduce the cost involved in the selection and training of pilots in the regional airline industry."

Professor Cortes is building relationships with a number of regional airlines that have or will agree to share "de-identified" data on these aviation career milestones; comparing the following and additional applicant sources:

1. AABI-accredited four-year flight programs
2. AABI-accredited two-year flight programs
3. Military retirees
4. Professional aviation training companies
5. FBOs and local training schools

Part of the study may include anecdotes that share instances of employment success from accredited institutions, particularly those which highlight an advantage (one way or the other) experienced by applicants seeking employment. An example is a story shared at the last AABI meeting by Rudy Knabe on the employment experience of his son who was part of a cadre of six applicants for employment, two were graduates from accredited programs and four were not. The two from AABI-accredited programs successfully passed the screening interview, the other four did not.

Data in Professor Cortes' study will speak one way or another as he gathers it. However, in showing why the effort required for accreditation is good for institutions, good for students and parents, and good for employers, we would also like to compile the "story bank" of anecdotes that relate to employment success of our graduates.

Therefore, if your faculty or staff are aware of such instances, we ask that you send them (preferably in separate one page anecdotes for each instance) to the AABI office where we will compile a companion document for Professor Cortes' study which will become part of the AABI branding and marketing effort that was discussed at length during the last meeting.

Thank you very much for your assistance.



Peter Morton

INDUSTRY/EDUCATOR FORUM: EDUCATORS RESPOND

By C. Daniel Prather, Ph.D., A.A.E.,
Middle Tennessee State University

At the recently-held AABI Winter Meeting in Mesa, Arizona, the UAA had a strong presence at the Industry/Educator (I/E) Forum. Designed to allow AABI to stay in touch with industry needs, the I/E Forum presents industry challenges at the AABI Annual Meetings, with subsequent educator response at the AABI Winter Meetings. During the Seattle 2007 Annual Meeting, industry presented challenges in the five following areas: Aviation Industry Business Realities; Airport Management: Elements of Success; Enhancing Pilot Supply; Mentor Pilot Task Force; and FDM in General Aviation Fleets. As chair of the UAA Curriculum Committee, I was tasked with coordinating a “world-class” response from educators. This response allowed seven educators from the UAA and AABI collegiate aviation communities (with non-accredited and accredited program representation) the opportunity to present “our” views of the industry challenges, as well as make recommendations for AABI and collegiate aviation programs.

Specifically, Dr. Gerald Fairbairn, Westminster College, recommended that the culminating experience in Aviation Management programs be built on prior coursework with upper division aviation courses requiring the application of significant business and economic concepts. Dr. William Caldwell for Dr. Robert Kaps, Southern Illinois University – Carbondale, suggested the question is not whether aviation programs can provide the knowledge the aviation industry desires, but rather whether we can



Educator Responders: (above, l to r) Stephen Quilty, Bill Caldwell, Julie Massie Clark, Victor Ujimoto, Wendy Beckman, Daniel Prather and Gerry Fairbairn.



educate a new generation of students whose goals are somewhat in conflict with those of a competent workforce. As a result, academics need to work on industry problems, and industry leaders need to validate what educators are saying and provide input into the curriculum.

On the topic of Airport Management, Dr. Isaac Richmond Nettey, Kent State University, proposed improved integration of airport management practice with aviation management education via structured airport internship programs and cross linkages with professional practice, such as guest lectures and faculty exchange programs. Mr. Stephen Quilty, Bowling Green State

University, highlighted research performed in this area and suggested that improvement is needed in developing skills within courses, promoting lifelong learning, conducting additional research in this area, and garnering support from industry.

Dr. Wendy Beckman, Middle Tennessee State University, provided an overview of the current pilot supply status of the industry and proposed that collegiate aviation programs focus on recruitment, retention and developing bridge

programs with industry, as well as providing instruction in TAA, using FITS-based flight instruction, and require completion of an advanced jet course.

Dr. Julie Massie Clark, Middle Georgia College, discussed the requirements to become a mentor pilot and suggested that due to these extension requirements, collegiate aviation programs may not necessarily be the proper forums for developing mentor pilots.

Lastly, Dr. Victor Ujimoto, University of Western Ontario, examined the benefits of FDM and suggested that FDM in collegiate aviation flight training programs is beneficial in providing direct feedback to students, which enhances student learning by identifying and monitoring flight information based on actual flight performance data, and improves aviation safety and operation efficiencies.

Note: This article also appears in the spring issue of UAA's Collegiate Aviation News.

INDUSTRY/EDUCATOR FORUM COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES TOPICS

JULY 17, 2008

“The First 1000 Flight Hours.” A panel of airline executives will describe the development of pilot skills and maturity during the first 1000 hours of employment and suggest how flight education might enhance the performance during that period.

Safety Management Systems Implementation and Challenges. All airlines will be required to implement SMS by the FAA. A panel of airline executives and SMS experts will describe their plans to prepare and implement SMS, with comments on how collegiate education could prepare future professionals to work in an SMS environment.

Human Intervention and Motivation Study (HIMS). Captain Mike Lloyd, Delta Air Lines, will be the luncheon keynote speaker.

Recruiting, Employing, and Empowering Mechanics from Two- and Four-Year Programs. A panel of airline maintenance leaders will describe the entry-level and developmental performance of technicians, highlighting the differences between two- and four-year program graduates.

Industry Advisory Boards in an Outcomes Environment. A panel of educational institution industry advisory board chairs and/or members explores how they can assist institutions to excel and accredit in an environment that requires outcomes evidence for accreditation.



BEST PRACTICES continued from page 1

instructions on how to access the site, upload materials, and more. Plan now to attend the Annual Meeting in Champaign!

Since 1998, when Congress, the Department of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) have increased emphasis on student learning, the accrediting community has taken steps to improve focus on outcomes-based education—a philosophy that focuses on empirically measuring student performance. One of AABI’s goals with the transition has been to provide a more robust, more outcomes-focused, results-centered system that will benefit all constituents. The well-attended and well-praised workshops are examples of ways to streamline and improve the accreditation process to support innovation, promote consistency in accreditation standards, increase accountability, and become more transparent to the public.

For copies of AABI forms, including the new Evidence Guide (Form 208), Glossary of Terms (Form 222) and Assessment Guide (Form 223), please visit www.aabi.aero, or contact Ceci Hogencamp at (334) 844-2431 or hogence@auburn.edu.

NEW AWARDS ANNOUNCED!

The AABI Awards Committee met during the Winter Meeting in Mesa and announced criteria for newly-approved awards. Nominations for these awards will be sought this spring, with presentations planned for the Annual Meeting during the Thursday evening Anniversary Celebration Dinner.

Paul A. Whelan AABI Educator Award and the Richard W. Taylor AABI Industry Award

- Must be nominated by an AABI member of any sort
- Has been highly instrumental in the advancement of AABI
- Must be an Aviation Educator (Whelan)/ Must be in Aviation Industry (Taylor)
- Nominees are sought every year, but award is not required to be made every year.
- Cannot be a member of the Awards or Executive Committees

AABI President’s Award

- Given for outstanding service to AABI
 - Nominated by the president
 - Must be approved by members of the Executive Committee
 - Not a member of the Executive Committee
- Awarded at will – no set schedule



1988-2008

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YEARS of Excellence



SAVE THE DATE!

AABI Annual Meeting

July 14-18, 2008

Champaign, IL

Hosted by

Frasca International, Inc.

The **Aviation Accreditation Board International** (AABI) is planning a special Annual Meeting to celebrate its 20th anniversary, and our host, Frasca International, Inc., will be celebrating 50 years of flight simulation excellence! Original Council members, past presidents and other distinguished guests will be invited to attend, and special AABI milestones will be recognized and celebrated. Mark your calendars now!

On Monday, July 14, the Best Practices Workshops will highlight a hands-on session to demonstrate, for institutions and visiting team members, the capabilities of the new, secure on-line training site. Participants will learn how to utilize the site to upload Self-Study Report materials, including appendices and evidence. We strongly encourage you to attend—bring your colleagues!

The **Industry/Educator Forum**, chaired by Ken Caley of The Boeing Company, will highlight issues relevant to emergent technologies and competencies that will be critical success factors for graduates from collegiate aviation programs in the next decade (see page 5 for selected topics). This formal dialog between industry members and educators maintains a strong linkage between the employers of institutional program graduates and the educators who provide the competencies of our future aviation professionals.

The week will culminate with a special 50th anniversary celebration at Frasca Field! AABI participants, and Frasca customers and vendors will have an opportunity to visit the Frasca Air Museum featuring vintage WWII aircraft, war paraphernalia, and several simulators built by Frasca and other manufacturers. Check the AABI Web site for updates on celebration plans. **DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL EVENT!**

We invite you to attend the AABI Annual Meeting in Champaign! Visit www.abi.aero for more details.

Peter Morton
AABI President

Gary W. Kiteley
AABI Executive Director

Preliminary Agenda

13 July – Sunday

1530-2030 Registration
0900-1430 Outcomes Implementation Committee (Closed Meeting)
1830-2030 Welcome Reception

14 July – Monday

0700-1800 Registration/Ceci Hogencamp & Patrice Benson
0730-0830 Breakfast
0800-1700 Best Practices Workshops

15 July – Tuesday

0700-1800 Registration
0700-0800 Breakfast — Welcome New Trustees, Members and First Timers (By invitation)
0730-0830 Coffee and Pastries
0815-1000 AABI/UAA Joint Curriculum Committee
1000-1130 Membership & International Committees
1130-1230 Lunch On Your Own
1245-1400 Corporate Communications Committee
1400-1530 AABI/UAA Joint Safety Committee
1430-1530 Bylaws Committee
1500-1530 Coffee Break
1530-1630 Strategic Planning Committee
1630-1730 Annual Members Meeting
1800 — Executive Committee Dinner (Closed Meeting)

16 July – Wednesday

0700-1800 Registration
0700-1400 Accreditation Committee Executive Session
0800-0930 Technology-based Education Roundtable
0930-1100 Guidance Committee
1100-1115 Refreshment Break
1115-1230 Criteria Committee
1230-1330 Lunch On Your Own
1330-1430 Criteria Committee
1430-1445 Refreshment Break
1430-1830 Tour — TBA
1445-1715 Board of Trustees Accreditation Executive Session (Closed Meeting)
1800 — Reception and Tour at the Frasca Factory

17 July – Thursday

0700-1800 Registration
0700-0800 Continental Breakfast
0700-0730 I/E Forum Panel Members Meeting
0800-0815 President's Welcome
0815-1700 Industry Educator Forum
1015-1030 Refreshment Break
1230-1330 Members Luncheon
1515-1530 Refreshment Break
1900 — Reception & Dinner

18 July – Friday

0700-1300 Registration
0730-0830 Continental Breakfast
0830-1130 AABI Board of Trustees Meeting
1330 — 50th Anniversary Celebration at Frasca Field

19 July – Saturday

1000-1700 50th Anniversary Celebration at Frasca Field