

Board Opinions

May 2009

The Board discussed the number of pending cases that required extensive work by technical advisors. It was decided to use various methods to increase the number of volunteer technical advisors. The need for technical advisors will be included in the Board's newsletter. The various societies will be asked to include an article on the need for technical advisors in their newsletters. There was also discussion about the possibility of offering continuing education credit for the advisors. There was a motion to advertise the need for technical advisors, to change the Administrative Code to allow continuing education credit for advisor work and to further authorize the Executive Director to pay a firm/advisor when needed to handle time sensitive issues. However the motion died for lack of a second. The advantages and disadvantages of using paid technical advisors were discussed. It was determined that the Board's preference was to exhaust the list of volunteers prior to employing advisors.

The Board reviewed the requests from licensees who were asking if certain types of courses would be acceptable for continuing education credit. It was the Board's opinion that credit can not be given in Alabama for the passing of licensure or accreditation examinations taken in other jurisdictions. Credit can be given for a formal review course which may lead to the passing of an accreditation exam.

The Board reviewed the recently published NCEES Engineering Education Task Force Analysis Report. The task force was charged with the analysis of the impacts of the master's or equivalent requirement for engineering licensure. It was pointed out that the report identified it had not completed the analysis of alternative solutions. The Board was also concerned that the task force still has not addressed the body of knowledge content that should be required for the engineering degrees. Mr. Arkle volunteered to develop a position statement that identified the Board's concerns. The statement would address the decreasing requirements by ABET and that the goal instead should be to make the BS programs sufficient for licensure.

The changes to the NCEES Structural Principles and Practice Examination effective with the April 2011 administration were discussed. An 8-hour structural option will no longer be available. Structural applicants will have to take a 16-hour examination which will be offered in two sessions, one 8-hour session on Friday and one 8-hour session on Saturday. The cost of the exam will exceed the maximum limit the Board is authorized by law to charge for the examination. The staff was tasked to look at possible changes to the Law and Administrative Code that will enable the applicants to take the 16-hour examination. The staff will also include an article in the next newsletter alerting the structural licensees that the current Structural II examination will only be available through October 2010.