

ECEDHA Regional Meeting Notes – CANADA

March 15, 2010

Notes of "Canada" regional meeting, March 15, 2010.

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Seven of the eight Canadian (CHECE) members attending the Florida conference were present. Picking up on the main themes of the ECEDHA meeting, the following items were discussed.

1. Development of policy positions

- Extremely relevant to at least influence our national research-funding body (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council - NSERC) on disappointing success rates in ECE, changing strategic priority areas, and emergence of new funding programs. Other areas of influence were not so clear (education policies, industry policies) as these are largely shaped at the provincial level. Will watch ECEDHA developments in this regard.

2. Accreditation

- We are faced with similar challenges as those posed by ABET, with outcomes-based assessment being fully applied by CEAB in 2014. Learning from the experiences of ECEDHA continues to be useful to Canadian members. Workshops (possibly on-line) on preparing for accreditation need to be organized and publicized. Topic to be raised at our May 2010 meeting.

3. Curriculum reforms

- While new initiatives are being pursued on problem-based learning and similar reforms to curriculum delivery, questions were raised on their effectiveness in terms of grasping fundamentals, preparing for research, and ultimately satisfying employers. It may take 10 years to properly answer these questions.

4. Next CHECE meeting

- In addition to the set agenda items (power lab innovations, IT industry presentation, NSERC report, open forum) it is important to include a discussion on ECE lab safety as this is poorly defined and handled in many universities.

5. CHECE Website

- The idea of enhancing the appearance and content of our website, and harmonizing it with ECEDHA's website, was well received. Details of how this will be done need to be worked out. Topic to be raised at our May 2010 meeting.

6. For information

- Brief overview of CHECE's report to March 12 ECEDHA Board Meeting (D. Dodds, U Saskatchewan);
- An ECE Education Technologies Conference will be held in October 2011 in Trois-Rivieres with participants from France (conference language: French; K. Agbossou, Univ Quebec Trois-Rivieres)