



GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday 29th January 2008

ECITB Regional Office. Riverview Business Centre. Aberdeen

Present:

Keith French, ECITB
Andy Brown, ECITB Product Development Team
Meg Findlay, AMEC
Lynne Duncan, PSN
Lynne Philips, PSN
John Raine, WoodGroup
Janice MacGregor, WoodGroup
Steve Franklin, CB&I UK
Kirsten Lightfoot, AMEC

Apologies:

Jennifer Clark, Aker Kvaerner

1. Welcome & introductions

Keith chaired and welcomed everyone to the fourth Graduate Development Working Group meeting and confirmed that future meetings would be chaired by John Edwards.

2. Review of Previous Minutes and Actions

Keith gave an update on the Previous actions:

ACTION:

ECITB – Keith French / John Edwards outstanding
Speak to AGCAS regarding “Highly Skilled Migrants under the Points Based System”
Contact is Paul Brown (AGCAS Scotland Convenor – University of St Andrews Careers
Careers Centre)

ACTION:

ECITB – Miranda Hall ongoing
Produce a Graduate careers leaflet for the Careers Advisory Service and foreign nationals
wanting to join an engineering construction company.

ACTION

ECITB – Keith French / John Edwards ongoing
Identify skill and discipline shortages from the Industry and gather information on the
shortfalls from the Universities.

ACTION

ongoing/part complete

ECITB – John Edwards / Alison Tridgell-Wyatt

On-going activity - Identify discipline shortages by speaking to / undertaking a survey of the major engineering construction companies employing graduates and speaking to the universities about the findings.

ACTION

work in progress

Undertake a study with the six major professional Institutions to identify training and development needs to take a graduate from BEng – MEng and chartered engineer status.

ACTION

ECITB Marketing / Ascenda

outstanding

To develop a guidance leaflet for graduates undertaking the BEng qualifications to clarify the bridging requirements from BEng – MEng.

ACTION

Offsite Regional Chairman / Regional Account Manager

discussed/agreed

To include Graduate Development as an agenda item at the Offsite Regional Forums.

ACTION

ECITB - Keith French

discussed/ongoing

To speak with the Offsite Regional Chairman over the possible funding of in-company presentations on the bridging requirements of BEng – MEng and Chartered status.

John R provided feedback on the presentation Peter Wright had done at WoodGroup. The presentation was well received and informative with Peter being very knowledgeable about the requirements for the different Institutions. It proved to be a very worthwhile exercise. It was suggested the RDF could be used to fund future presentations which are approx half-day duration. Contact Richard Leahman or John Edwards.

Andy Brown added that it may be beneficial to wait until the work to develop a clearer route from BEng to MEng was more mature before making decisions on funding and marketing actions in case. This comment was endorsed by Steve Franklin and it was agreed to postpone any marketing leaflets until more development work had been done.

ACTION

discussed/ongoing

ECITB – Keith French

To discuss with Offsite Regional Chairman and Tony Featherstone Director, Operations possible future funding for graduate development.

It was noted that actions should be completed as much as possible before the next meeting!

3. Graduate Development Programme

Andy Brown presented and distributed hand-outs to the group which reported the findings so far from his study, to address the current disparate approach to Further Learning to bridge the industry gap from BEng to MEng.

Copies of these reports are attached:

Bridging the BEng – MEng Gap
ECUK Examinations
Open University Integrated MEng Programme

AB made the assumption in his report that the work to develop an Industry Further Learning programme was relevant only to Graduates with exemplifying Bachelors Degrees. Steve Franklin disagreed with this and said that overseas Graduates did not have exemplifying Bachelors degrees but still needed BEng to MEng Further Learning.

Open University Integrated MEng. AB explained that the technical content of the programme was contained within the middle 90 credit modules and this was where he would focus on ensuring the programme met the requirements of the various Professional Engineering Institutions (PEIs). He stated he believed that the programme was ready to meet the requirements of the IET and IMechE. Steve Franklin cautioned that the IMechE and IET should be consulted before making any claim to the industry that the Integrated MEng was suitable for Industry Graduates. AB agreed to do this, Lynne Duncan also asked AB to ensure the programme was suitable for Instrumentation Graduates with the IET, AB agreed to do this.

AB suggested that the next action to address related to the Integrated MEng was to assess any gaps in the technical options for the Joint Board of Moderators (JBM who cover the ICE and IStructE) and IChemE. These actions were endorsed by the Working Group, with attention to the Civil Engineering Graduates being the priority.

Work Base Learning MSc with Kingston University. The WBL route for Further Learning was discussed and it was agreed that the WBL model would suit some companies within the ECI. AB stressed there was already work being undertaken between Kingston University and the ICE to develop a WBL MSc for Civil Engineering. It was agreed that AB should pursue this approach and establish costs and timescales for development work. There was interest in the Professional Development Audit process as a standard part of an Industry scheme that established the route for Graduates, it was felt this could be particularly useful for overseas Graduates. AB agreed to pursue this process and investigate any options of using the model.

ECUK Examinations. It was agreed by the Working Group that this approach was the lowest priority.

Members of the Working Group did comment that while the results of the work were needed by the Industry it was generally by smaller companies as the companies represented at the Working Group already had schemes in place and they would not adopt any programmes developed by the ECITB. Meg Findlay added that one of the areas where small companies needed support was with mentoring and she wondered if there was any mileage in researching the development of a mentor database where mentors from other companies may assist smaller companies. This was received by the Working Group as a good idea and an action placed on John Edwards to pursue.

Other discussion during this agenda item included the need to clarify which PEIs recognised the methods researched as routes for Further Learning. AB agreed to produce a matrix to clarify this information.

Steve Franklin was also interested to try and understand what, if any, was the impact on Graduates work output who were enrolled on the Kingston University WBL MSc. AB agreed to try and find this information out.

Both AB and Keith French stated the ECITB were committed to supporting the BEng to MEng programmes financially although at this stage it was not clear how or by how much. This would be a matter for John Edwards and the Head of TS&MP to work out and make recommendations to the ECITB Board.

The group's recommendations for further actions were summarised as follows:

ACTION

Andy Brown

Open University Int MEng modules – To ensure endorsed by IMechE and IET.

Conduct Gap Analysis with JBM and IChemE.

Look at the Professional Development Audit as a method to assess which route candidates should go.

Clarify existing information on Further Learning routes and PEIs endorsement of these routes

Find out how the Gateways Project effects the work output of candidates.

ACTION

John Edwards/Norman Harrison

To discuss funding models to support the Further Learning routes for BEng to MEng.

4. AOB

SF requested Progress Reports -

The provision of a report showing Competences from different groups would be useful.

MF Overseas Graduates -

An issue of how they can be supported and developed.

5. Next Meeting

The next working group meeting has been scheduled for ????

Attachments:

- > Bridging the BEng – MEng Gap
- > ECUK Examinations
- > Open University MEng – PGDip in Engineering