

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

About us

The Australian Council of Engineering Deans (ACED) has formally been in operation for more than 20 years, with the stated mission *“To promote and advance engineering education, research and scholarship on behalf of Australian universities through a range of activities including engagement with relevant organisations.”*

ACED does this in the national and international interest, which for education and research includes assuring the public that engineering graduates will conduct their work in the public interest with due regard for human safety and the sustainability of the environment.

ACED is an incorporated association whose members are the Australian public universities that provide undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs and research in engineering.

The Council elects a President for a two year period. The President is supported by the Executive Committee, whose members are elected by the Council.

The Council meets in full twice a year (Spring and Autumn).

ACED has strong links with the Australasian Association of Engineering Education (AaeE) whose members are primarily engineering academics in Australian and New Zealand universities. ACED sponsors the annual AaeE award for Excellence in Teaching.

ACED invites a representative of the New Zealand Council of Engineering Deans to attend Council meetings. ACED is a Chapter Member of the Global Engineering Deans Council (GEDC)

ACED also has strong links with Engineers Australia (EA). Representatives of the EA Accreditation Centre attend all ACED meetings to inform and discuss with members developments in the national engineering program accreditation system, and matters of importance arising within the International Engineering Association (IEA) that has oversight of the international engineering education Accords of which EA is a member.

Governance

Executive Committee (at Dec 2015)

President:	Professor Moses Tadó
Deputy President:	Professor John Wilson
Past President:	Professor Daryoush Habibi
Members:	Professor Friso de Boer Professor Scott Smith Professor John Beynon
Executive Officer:	Professor Doug Hargreaves AM

Changes

During 2015, ACED established two Standing Committees: the Associate Deans of Teaching and Learning (ADTL) Group; and the Associate Deans of Research (ADR) Group, the leaders of which will join the Executive Committee.

Council priorities

Maintain a working understanding of all regulatory bodies, in particular TEQSA and HESP

Support project applications to various government bodies such as OLT.

Maintain ACED presence in appropriate forums such as ACARA and OCS.

Activities

Guest speakers at Council Meetings

- Chief Commissioner of TEQSA (Professor Saunders)
- Professor Peter Kilpatrick, University of Notre Dame, USA – Chair GEDC (Incoming)
- Higher Education Standards Panel (HESP); two representatives from the Dept of Education.

Projects

During 2015, ACED supported workshops in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, for dissemination of the outcomes of a major project on *Enhancing Industry Engagement in Engineering Degree Programs* funded by the Australian Department of Industry during 2012-14. The workshops were led by project leaders Dr Sally Male and Professor Robin King. More than 100 academics and other from 24 universities participated in the workshops.

ACED requests submissions from members for small project funding, up to \$10,000. During 2015, the following projects were supported:

- Development of a national ePortfolio approach (Professor Roger Hadgraft, CQUniversity)
- Curriculum and Assessment Sharing (Professor Roger Hadgraft, CQUniversity and Professor David Lowe, University of Sydney)
- Peer Review of Assessment Network (Assoc Prof Bouchra Senadji, QUT is ACED's link to Dr Sara Booth who coordinates this project)

ACED compiled and published (see website) the *Australian Engineering Education Student and Staff Statistics*, from data purchased from the Australian Higher Education Statistics collection and other national sources.

Representation on other bodies

ACED participates in the reference group for the *F-10 Design and Technology* school curriculum implementation, convened by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). Together with *Digital Technologies*, this curriculum is part of the compulsory school curriculum, and introduces and develops engineering concepts and practice.

Presentations at national and international conferences

Professor Robin King represented ACED on a panel on *Industry Perspectives* at a Conference on Industry Engagement & Employability, 27-28 August, Sydney.

On behalf of ACED, Professor Robin King presented a paper on *Raising Engineering Education Standards through Accreditation and International Benchmarking* at the Higher Education Compliance and Quality Network Conference, 4-5 November 2015, Melbourne.

On behalf of ACED, AaeE and EA, Dr Prue Howard (President of AaeE) presented a paper on *Systemic Approaches to Improving Engineering Education in Australia*, co-authored by Dr Howard, Prof. Robin King, A/Prof Lyn Brodie, Dr Sally Male and Dr Peter Hoffmann, at the 3rd Convention of the Federation of Engineering Institutions for Asia and the Pacific (FIEAP), Taipei, 7 -9 July 2015

Submissions to national reviews

ACED routinely responds to requests to respond to the Australian government's consultation processes on matters that relate to engineering education and research. Responses are normally then published on the ACED website. In 2015, ACED responded to the *Review of Australia's Research Training System*.

Letters of support for national projects were provided to:

- Dr Sara Booth (University of Tasmania) for the project "*A sustainable sector wide model for peer review of assessment and teaching quality: College of Peers and online benchmarking tool*".
- Prof Iouri Belski's (RMIT University) for his OLT Fellowship application entitled "*Educating the Edisons of the 21st Century: embedding tools of the Theory of Inventive Problem Solving (TRIZ) into the engineering curriculum*".
- Dr George Banky (Swinburne University of Technology) for his application for OLT funding on "*Benchmarking the affordances of real-time online supervised immersive experimental learning environments created using wearable technologies*".
- Dr Sally Male for her application for OLT funding on "*Virtual Work Integrated Learning for engineering students*".
- Dr Sasha Nikolic for her application for OLT funding on "*Preparing globally employable graduates by building engineering practice skills with new communications technologies*".
- Ms Bernadette Foley for her application for OLT funding for "*Transforming engineering students into student engineers: Improving learning outcomes and employability*".

Financial Report

Opening Balance (1 Jan 2015)	\$ 142 117
Income (members' dues + interest)	\$ 138 308
Total Expenditure	\$ 159 154
Retained surplus (31 Dec 2015)	\$ 121 271

Looking to the future

- We will continue to support projects (usually seed funding to \$10 000) that are deemed to be innovative and align with the mission.
- We will update the website as it is not particularly user-friendly.
- We will continue to liaise with relevant government bodies and respond to issues and consultative papers.
- We will continue liaison with other organisations such as the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE), Global Engineering Deans Council (GEDC), the International Engineering Alliance (IEA), World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) as well as various industry bodies.
- We will continue to collect and analyse Australian Engineering Education Student and Staff Statistics from national data collections

Contact us

Executive Officer: Em Prof Doug Hargreaves, d.hargreaves@qut.edu.au
website: www.aced.edu.au