The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Dr. Petersen welcomed the group and thanked them for their time and support.

When time permits, members should review the past meeting minutes and inform Dr. Durant of any corrections.

Student Statistics
This fall saw an increase—51 freshmen, compared to 41 last year. Next year is looking good, too. So far, we have 30 deposits (compared to 33 last year at this time), 197 applicants (159), and 113 accepted applicants (100).

Summary of ABET Visit
Dr. Durant reported that the recent ABET visit went very well. The visitors had good things to say about IAC involvement and the Technical Support Center. Dr. Petersen said the institution did very well overall.

Objectives and Outcomes
Dr. Durant reviewed the CE program’s objectives and outcomes and asked for comments/questions. It was noted that “critical thinking” is not explicit in outcomes, but is addressed in the curriculum. By adding it to the outcome list, we would track it and measure it. Dr. Durant will take this suggestion to faculty.

Current Curriculum V3.0
One minor change was recently made to the curriculum (swapping operating systems and computer graphics in the junior year), creating version 3.1. V3.1 will apply to this year’s freshmen as well as the incoming fall 2007 class.
The new “car in a box” course (embedded software) may not involve a moving robot, but will be a kit of some kind. This led to a discussion on the value of Assembly language. Most agreed that a foundation in Assembly is important.

**Upcoming Events**
April 21 – Open House. The CE program will offer tours again.
May 25 – Next IAC meeting (8 a.m.) and Senior Design Show (11 a.m.)

**Priorities for the CE program**

*Increase focus on retaining underclassmen* – While our retention numbers may be typical, we would like to do better. There are different university initiatives, but we want to do something within the program. We have made a change to introduce digital logic in the freshman year, which gets many students more excited than introductory programming.

Thoughts from the group included.

- Try to interview students before leaving.
- International exchange program. Might help with recruitment of new students. Not a hiring requirement, but an attractive benefit. Dr. Durant said Lübeck (where the exchange programs exist for EEs and MEs) does not offer a CE program. We would have to establish a relationship with another university which has a significantly similar content in the junior year. It is a challenge we could take on if there were enough student interest.
- Student forums are a good idea. Include IAC members. Hold during 11 a.m. Friday free hours. Offer food/drinks. Advertise what companies will be represented; students could do research first.
- The student representatives indicated a desire for an EECS career fair, separate from the main MSOE fair (similar to what the AE department does).

**Discussion: Strengthening the CE IAC/Program Partnership**

Ideas from the group included:

- Mentors from industry. Maybe two or three students per mentor; they might get together a couple times during a quarter. These would be face-to-face meetings, not just email like Mentor Net. We could try recruiting CE alums to serve as mentors.
- Company tours, company info sessions, short-term internships, etc. as a way to give freshmen insight into what to expect in the real world.
- IEEE is the main professional society we encourage students to join. Dr. Durant will provide the IAC membership list to the IEEE student society as a resource for company tours, etc.
- Shadow Days. Student would join a working professional for a day. Start with IAC companies.
- Create a listserv for this group.
- Maintain a list of internships for students. Start with member companies.
- Send a summary of IAC meeting minutes to CE students. Interested students could read, become familiar with companies.
**General Discussion**
The student representatives suggested creating opportunities for students to learn more about the industry—tours, internships, info sessions, CE/SE-specific career fair.

Freshmen need advisors who will provide encouragement, not just academic advising.

Investigate service projects for CE/EE/SE students.

Investigate competitions for CEs. Dr. Durant indicated this was on the agenda for the next faculty meeting.

**Wrap up**

*Next meeting:* Friday, May 25, before senior design show. 8:00 breakfast, 8:30-11:00 meeting, 11:00 design show.

Dr. Durant will summarize action items and send to members. He will also set up a listserve to facilitate communication.

A group photograph will be taken at the May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.