



### Taking EPC's Views to the Politicians.

As part of our regular programme of conversations with politicians, EPC members recently visited the HE spokespersons for the Liberal Democrats, Stephen Williams, and for the Conservatives, Rob Wilson who is also a member of the DIUS Select Committee. The discussions were wide ranging and as a result a number of potential Parliamentary Questions were identified. We heard about the forthcoming review of Liberal Democrat HE Policy and took soundings on the progress of the Select Committee's review of engineering. For more information see: [www.epc.ac.uk](http://www.epc.ac.uk)

### Admissions Working Group: New representative body E4E

The STEM landscape is constantly changing and while the science and maths communities are finding their own voices via SCORE and ACME respectively, the engineering profession needs to establish a voice of equivalent status. Discussions between the Engineering Education Alliance (EEA) and the Shape the Future Steering Group (StF) have resulted in agreement to merge their ongoing activities to form a new single body under the name **E4E** denoting 'Education for Engineering'. Work is ongoing to establish the terms of reference and membership.

### Is the Maths in the Engineering Diploma good enough?

Over the last year, EPC has played a leading role in ensuring the maths content of the Additional Specialist Learning for the Advanced Diploma in Engineering has been brought to a good enough standard to allow students to follow a high level engineering course at University.

This new course – OCR Level 3 Certificate in Mathematics for Engineering – was accredited by QCA in June and is backed up by real engineering exemplars developed in conjunction with companies including Thales, Rolls Royce and JCB. The syllabus content is equivalent to the essential maths within A-level with the inclusion of mechanics and complex numbers.

Professor Matthew Harrison of the Royal Academy of Engineering said recently: **"With this new maths course we know with confidence that young engineers can continue their education at a wide range of universities. I fully expect them to excel in their studies having spent up to four years studying engineering before they ever set foot in a university lecture"**

See details of the certificate at <http://www.accreditedqualification.org.uk/qualification/50041368.aspx> and the work of the EPC task group at [www.epc.ac.uk](http://www.epc.ac.uk).

### Message from the EPC President

The EPC was created in its present form in January 1994 by a merger of the Engineering Professors' Conference and the Committee for Engineering in Polytechnics, following the abolition of the binary line in UK higher education in 1992. The Engineering Professors Conference goes back to initial meetings between the London Engineering Departments during the early 1950's. However, in 1959, the first Conference meeting was held in Bristol, marking the emergence of the EPC as a national body. This year we are 50 years old. We will be marking the anniversary next May 20<sup>th</sup> with a reception and members' meeting to discuss our priorities for the next 50 years. Wait for further announcements.

*Professor Ray Allen,  
Sheffield University,  
EPC Chair*



## Launch of new EPC Current Awareness Service

The EPC Office keeps a sharp eye on the media outlets and web sites that affect HE policy in engineering to keep up to date with what is happening. We have started to put these links on to our web site at [www.epc.ac.uk/current/LatestNews.php](http://www.epc.ac.uk/current/LatestNews.php). However, if you would like to opt in to receive the same current awareness e-mails that our Committee members enjoy, please let us know and we will be happy to include you on our mailing list. This service is available, free of charge, to all senior academics in subscribing universities. Please contact [f.martland@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:f.martland@surrey.ac.uk)

## EUR-ACE Label for Accredited Programmes

The Engineering Council UK has received authorisation from the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAAE) to continue to award the EUR-ACE Label to accredited BEng(Hons) programmes (EUR-ACE First Cycle) and to MEng and MSc programmes (EUR-ACE Second Cycle). This decision follows a detailed review by ENAAE earlier this year of the EC<sup>UK</sup> accreditation standards.

Further information is available at [www.enaee.eu](http://www.enaee.eu) and also [www.engc.org.uk/international/eurace.aspx](http://www.engc.org.uk/international/eurace.aspx).

### Contact Us

Fiona Martland,  
Executive Secretary  
School of Engineering (D3)  
University of Surrey  
Guildford GU2 7XH  
Tel: 01483 689536  
[www.epc.ac.uk](http://www.epc.ac.uk)

## The Future of Engineering Education

*"No factor is more critical in underpinning the continuing health and vitality of any national economy than a strong supply of graduate engineers equipped with the understanding, attitudes and abilities necessary to apply their skills in business and other environments"* (Royal Academy of Engineering, 2007). This statement helps explain why a number of organisations are developing views of what is expected of graduates in the 21st century. This includes the government's drive towards skill based education, the implementation of the Leitch report, the creation of the 'Innovation Nation', the Royal Academy's view of the 21st Century engineering education, the Sector Skills Councils' developing qualification frameworks, EC(UK)'s UK-SPEC, the professional institutions' guidelines for integration of skills within a technical framework, the demands of industry for increased engagement with universities, the international recognition of engineering education and some employers' view that there is a lack of technical skills amongst graduates.

These drivers have the potential to create real tension within higher education hence under Vice President Barry Clarke EPC has set up a working group comprising representatives of professional institutions, sector skills councils, EC(UK), government and academia to seek a common vision for the future and ensure programmes are developed to meet the needs of those parties that are interested in the developing agenda and support our members in delivering these programmes.

## 2009 ENGINEERING ACADEMICS' FORUM

This year's annual congress of the Engineering Professors' Council will be held in the historic city of Edinburgh on the parkland campus of Heriot-Watt University **20<sup>TH</sup>-22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2009**. This event is traditionally an opportunity for engineering academics across the UK to come together with representatives of industry, commerce, the Civil Service, senior politicians and government bodies in discussion about topical HE issues.

This year, the tenor of the Congress will be participative, with discussions led by members of the EPC Committee focused around the two broad themes of "Educating Engineers for Society" and "Engineering Research and Knowledge Transfer". The Council particularly wishes to invite a wider audience of engineering academics and industrial delegates and to encourage the direct participation of University Representatives.

For information see [www.epc.ac.uk](http://www.epc.ac.uk)