

**Istanbul Technical University
Environmental Engineering Department
Advisory Board - Minutes of the Meeting
2015-2016 Fall Semester**

Date: 20 January 2016

Place: ITU_ EED_ K305

Names of the Attendees (Graduation year from EED) from the Advisory Board:

Aslıhan Kerç	(BSc 1993_ITU)
Ayşegül Nuhoğlu	(BSc 1985_ITU)
Emine Girgin	(BSc 2002_Marmara University)
Gökşin Özyıldız	(BSc 2012_ITU)
Suphi Altan	(BSc 2013_ITU)
Şeyda Eskici	(BSc 1985_ITU)

The advisory board meeting which was scheduled as a routine for each semester (twice in an academic year) was held with the attendance of the above mentioned advisory board members as well as Environmental Engineering Department faculty.

The members of the Advisory Board were informed on the activities and efforts made during Assessment and Evaluation (A&E) process in the scope of ABET Continuous Improvement studies. Moreover, they have been asked about additional suggestions they can offer regarding the work practice of the graduates in the field.

The following issues have been suggested/concluded in the context of A&E process of the EED curriculum as well as the graduates:

- The graduates still reveal inadequacy in the contemporary/emerging issues and legislative framework. But in the meantime, a noticeable improvement has been observed with the addendum of the content of the courses like Graduation Design Project.
- The addition of the new issues related with environmental management topic (i.e. According to Program Criteria for Environmental and Similarly Named Engineering Programs set by ABET for Accrediting Engineering Programs, 2016 – 2017; EEUP of ITU needs to meet the required criteria via '**CEV492/E Graduation Design Project**' course regarding the **design of environmental engineering systems** _ that include considerations of risk, uncertainty, sustainability, life-cycle principles, and environmental impacts; and apply advanced principles and practice relevant to the program objectives) were approved. By this way, the students would be familiar with different subjects other than municipal wastewater and municipal solid waste treatment.
- An individual Graduation Project should also be promoted to equip students with personal responsibility, apart from the mentality to figure out a collaborative work in a company.
- The faculty members should share their experiences with the students by giving more examples and case studies in the relevant courses.

- In the content of the Graduation Design Project course, minimum 2-hour biweekly lectures/presentations that are given by several instructors as well as by the invited speakers from different disciplines on the related topics should be continued and improved. Because, they told that the seminars by the experts from different sectors would be useful for sharing their experience with the students in order to help the students to be well-equipped in their professional life.
- The Student Club of Environmental Engineering (EE) should be more active for the motivation of the students to the profession.
- The internship opportunities should be offered to the students through the preliminary agreements with the companies and department (especially with research and development companies) to extend new job alternatives.
- The members pointed out that when they compare the graduates with different universities they can easily observe the positive difference of ITU graduates having a great skill of analytical thinking and advanced technical understanding. On the other side, ITU graduates perform less ability in project reading, project management, coordination, presentation and marketing. Therefore, those skills should be strengthened by different additional activities.
- The members of the board indicated the usefulness of the course on 'Unit Operations and Processes Laboratory' in terms of the application of technical aspects of environmental engineering to the practice. Moreover, the students would gain the ability to collect, analyze and interpret data with an engineering point of view.
- The members also suggested that the Graduation Project should be extended to two semesters, so that it will cover all the steps of a real feasibility study.
- The Graduation Project should also include the aspects of Sustainable Development Goals defined by United Nations Development Program.
- The advisory board was informed about the revised surveys (alumni, employer, faculty, internship, etc.). All of these surveys were loaded to the data collection system VETİ (www.veti.itu.edu.tr). Preliminary results of these surveys (alumni and employer) were also presented.