

# AU Task Force: 2018 Consultation

Bob Dony  
Chair, AU Task Force  
April 5, 2018



# Outline

1

About the AU Task Force

2

AU Task Force timelines

3

National consultation objectives, process, and timelines

4

The AU Task Force Report and recommendations

5

Next steps

# About the AU Task Force

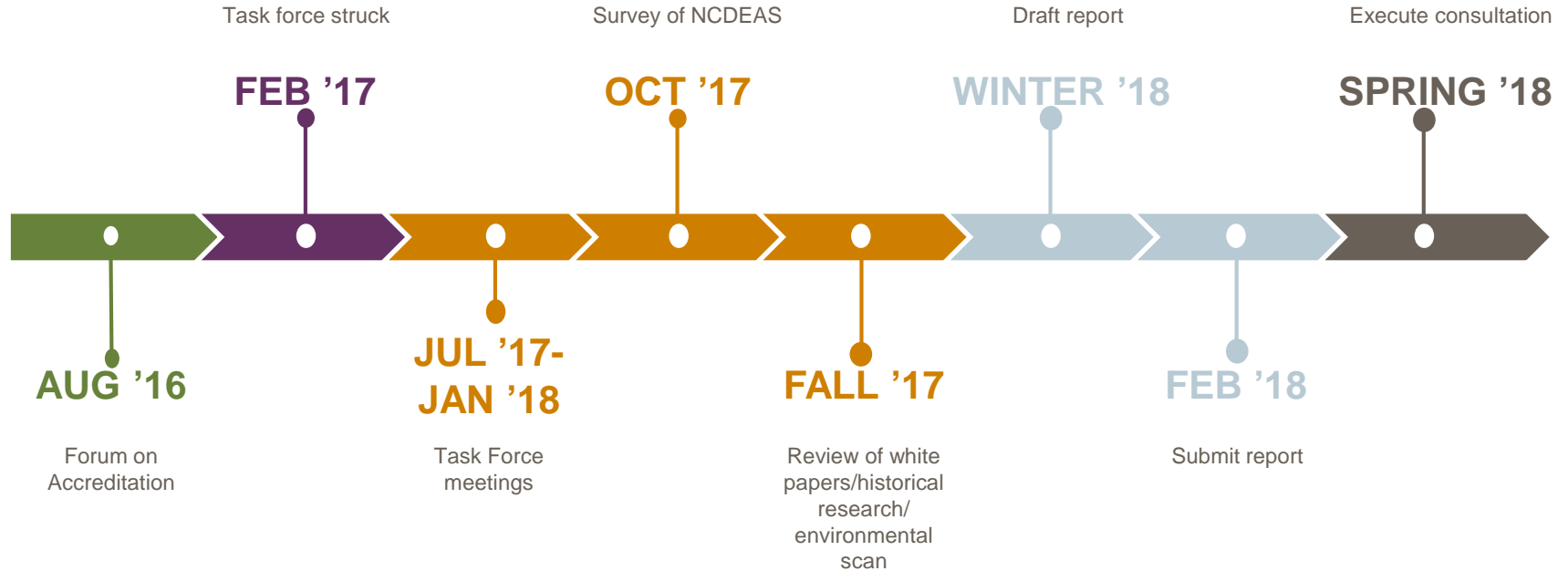
7 members from across Canada

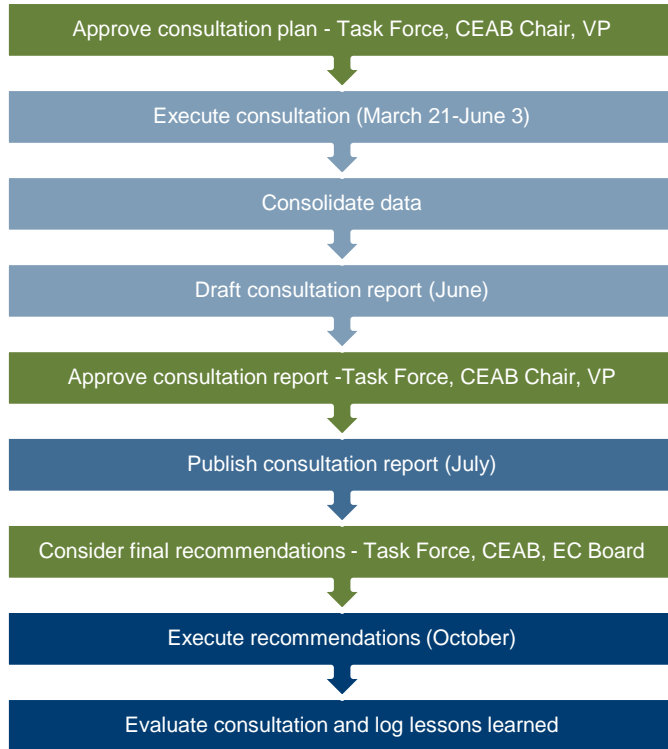
- representation from regulators, CEAB, NCDEAS, academia, industry

With a mandate to:

- consider the definition of an AU in its present form (criteria 3.4.1.1) and to identify the advantages, disadvantages and ramifications of any definition change on existing criteria.
- envisage how curriculum content requirements could be linked to student outcomes/graduate attributes whatever system of AU counts is used.

# AU Task Force timelines





# National consultation

Legend:

Decision point

Workplan process

# National consultation: objectives

1. Inform stakeholders of an alternate curriculum measurement methodology being considered.
2. Investigate stakeholder reaction to the report recommendations.
3. Consolidate and synthesize stakeholder feedback with the objective of putting forward a list of recommendations for implementation.
4. Identify barriers to change if the report recommendations are adopted.
5. Develop a reasonable implementation plan that accommodates the diverse viewpoints of stakeholders.

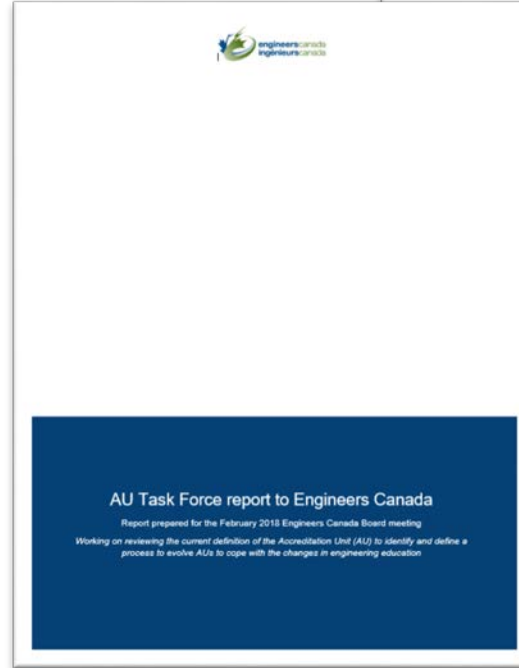
# Stakeholders to be consulted

- CEAB members
- CEQB members
- CFES
- National Council of Deans of Engineering and Applied Science (via the Dean's Liaison Committee)
- Executive Committee, Engineers Canada
- Engineering regulators' councils/Boards of examiners/Academic review committees
- National Admissions Officials Group (NAOG)

# Task Force Report

- Reviewed by the CEAB (Feb. 10) and received by Engineers Canada Board (Feb. 28)
- Submitted to all accreditation stakeholders for consultation
- Confirms Task Force deliverables
- **Four recommendations**

*Available on EC website*





## 3.4 Curriculum Content: Measurement



# Recommendation 1



It is the recommendation of the Task Force that the CEAB consider adding additional flexibility to measuring curriculum. This could be achieved by developing an interpretive statement for criterion 3.4.1.4 on the “Learning Unit”:

**Learning Unit:** Equivalent to  $N$  hr learning time, as established by focused learning time for all learning activities through (a) student surveys as part of course evaluations and (b) instructor expectations to be stated in course outlines. In the case of conventional learning activities, learning time measurements are used for formative feedback only, AU’s assigned as in the past.

# Recommendation 2



It is the recommendation of the Task Force that a preliminary measure of a **Learning Unit** be equivalent to 2.5 hours of learning time.

# Recommendation 3



It is the recommendation of the Task Force that the CEAB enter a national consultation on the Task Force's recommendations 1 and 2.

# Recommendation 4



The Task Force recommends that [the initiative to linking AUs with graduate attributes] be continued with the creation and presentation of concrete examples based on currently accredited program data to demonstrate the benefits accrued by applying the linking method.

Should a method to link curriculum to outcomes be adopted, the implementation timelines will consider any redefinition of AU.

# Consultations: What to expect

- We are working with stakeholders to schedule 1-hour webinars or face-to-face meetings with stakeholders.
- During the consultations we will:
  - a) Present the Task Force's **four recommendations**
  - b) Ask 5 questions about **recommendations 1 and 2**
  - c) With your permission, audio record our conversation
  - d) Address your questions, hear your feedback, and consider your point-of-view
- Notes from each meeting will be provided to stakeholder groups for verification

# Our questions

## Recommendation #1

1. Does the definition of the “Learning Unit” offer sufficient flexibility to measure curriculum content that is not actual contact time between student and faculty members?
2. Does the definition of the “Learning Unit” compromise the quality of the engineering degree?
3. Do the recommendations affect your level of confidence in the established accreditation process?
4. If we were to implement this recommendation today, what are the unintended consequences? That is, if something could go wrong, what would it be?

## Recommendation #2

1. Is the Learning Unit as equal to 2.5 hours of learning time appropriate?
2. If we were to implement this recommendation today, what are the unintended consequences? That is, if something could go wrong, what would it be?

# Next steps

- We are scheduling meetings with groups of stakeholders
- This webinar has been recorded and will be available on our website:

[www.engineerscanada.ca/accreditation/consultation-AU-task-force](http://www.engineerscanada.ca/accreditation/consultation-AU-task-force)

Written responses can be submitted to:

[accreditation@engineerscanada.ca](mailto:accreditation@engineerscanada.ca)

or by mail to:

AU Taskforce  
c/o Mya Warken  
Engineers Canada  
300-55 Metcalfe St.  
Ottawa, ON K1P 6L5

Submission deadline: **May 30, 2018**





## ACCREDITATION

About Accreditation

Accreditation Resources

Accredited Engineering Programs in Canada

Accreditation Improvement Program

Equivalency for Programs outside of Canada

The Washington Accord

Substantially Equivalent Programs

Accreditation Board

Consultation on Engineering Education and Accreditation

2018 Consultation on the Accreditation Unit (AU) Task Force recommendations

## Engineers Canada's Accreditation Unit (AU) Task Force – 2018 recommendations

We are seeking stakeholder feedback on recommendations 1 and 2 of the 2018 AU Task Force Report. The objectives of the consultation are to:

1. Inform stakeholders of an alternative curriculum measurement methodology being considered.
2. Solicit stakeholder reaction to the report recommendations.
3. Synthesize stakeholder feedback with the objective of putting forward a list of recommendations for implementation.
4. Identify barriers to change if the report recommendations are adopted.
5. Develop a reasonable implementation plan that accommodates the diverse nature of stakeholders.

We will be consulting with stakeholders between March 21, 2018 and June 3, 2018

### Document for consultation

[Report of the AU Task Force](#)

### Consultation process

Stakeholders being consulted include:

- » Regulators
  - » councils
  - » boards of examiners
  - » academic review committees
  - » admissions officials
- » Higher education institutions
  - » National Council of Deans of Engineering and Applied Science (NCDEAS)
  - » Deans' Liaison Committee (DLC)
- » Canadian Federation of Engineering Students (CFES)
- » Engineers Canada
  - » Accreditation Board
  - » Qualifications Board
  - » Executive committee of the Board

[www.engineerscanada.ca/accreditation/consultation-AU-task-force](http://www.engineerscanada.ca/accreditation/consultation-AU-task-force)

# Thank you

For more information:

[accreditation@engineerscanada.ca](mailto:accreditation@engineerscanada.ca) | 613.232.2474  
[engineerscanada.ca/accreditation](https://engineerscanada.ca/accreditation)

