CM&E IAC Course Evaluation

Course Number and Name: CME 430 Land Development

Instructor: Darshi DeSaram

Date of Classroom Observation: December 6, 2010

IAC Reviewer: Tom Wacholz

Comments related to classroom instruction and interaction:

Class was doing student presentations today. Was not able to observe instruction; however, good opportunity to observe a sample of what students have learned. Classroom interaction was good, although somewhat disruptive - too much talking going on during and between presentations. Students appear to have a good grasp on the overall concepts of land development – hard to know for sure with one visit. Student presentation skills could use some improvement. Good answers were given to most questions. Darshi demonstrated a good understanding of land development and his ability to provide instruction. I would encourage continued and frequent use of industry guests to supplement the classroom instruction.

Comments related to course material and delivery (textbooks, Blackboard, exams, assignments, projects, etc.):

The course material appears to be fairly comprehensive. For land development to succeed, you need a thorough understanding of the importance of all areas covered in the class instruction topics; and, you need to be able to interpret the information and predict how it will affect the overall land development project. Having teams of students go through the process of a conceptual land development is a great learning experience. Continue challenging students to focus on the "big picture" issues with development – marketability, cost competitiveness, financial risk, location, etc. Example: how can I maximize the number of sellable lots and minimize my infrastructure costs while being an environmental steward and creating a demand for this development (commercial and residential) – no small task!! This takes good engineers and designers to lay things out and cover codes and regulations; and it also takes a well-rounded project manager to understand all the components, challenge the team for optimum design and address all the inherent risks of land development.

Other comments, suggestions and recommendations:

Sensed a little lack of respect from some of the students by talking and being disruptive during Q&A and while Darshi was trying to provide and explanation or suggestion. Again, the student team project is a great way to get exposed to all the components of land development. Industry guest participation will continue to be a great compliment to the classroom instruction. If I were to do this again, I would spend more time in preparation – i.e. review course material for all class topics, schedule time with the instructor to get a better feel of the course goals and expected outcomes, visit more than just one class session. It was a learning experience for me! Hope this is helpful.