

Teaching, Innovation and the Engineering Communication Interface

David Prescott, The American University of Sharjah, UAE
Tharwat El-Sakran, The American University of Sharjah, UAE
Lutfi Albasha, The American University of Sharjah, UAE
Fadi Aloul, The American University of Sharjah, UAE
Yousef Al-Assaf, The American University of Sharjah, UAE

ABSTRACT

Recent engineering industry-based research has identified a number of skill deficiencies in graduating engineers. Emphasis on communication and teamwork informed by attributes of self management, problem solving and mutual accountability have been recognized as important needs by The Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET of the United States and are now required in undergraduate course material. The Engineering College at the American University of Sharjah has recognised this reality with the development of a course in language enhancement and professional communication centred on engineering multidisciplinary projects (EMDPs). This paper will outline four innovative pedagogic practices that together inform this course; team-building, teamwork management, collaborative problem solving, resource management. Brief illustrative descriptions of: team-building through the use of the Belbin Team Role Inventory; management of teamwork development via time allocation and documentation; personnel and project collaborative problem solving and interactive information sources hosted via a LibGuide will elaborate these innovative practices.