

CommunityMatters™

A Monthly Newsletter for the ABET Community

October 2006

Inside ABET

Planning Meeting Kicks Off PAVE Initiative

The Partnership to Advance Volunteer Excellence (PAVE), an initiative to implement systemwide improvements in program evaluator recruitment, selection, training, and evaluation that were developed as part of the Participation Project, kicked off with a planning and strategy meeting in Baltimore on Wednesday, August 30. This introductory event invited representatives from ABET's 28 member societies to gather in a common forum so that they could discuss the proposed improvements, share their experiences from pilot tests on the processes, and brainstorm about how each society can integrate these developments into their existing practices and cultures.

The meeting began with the team from Cardea Communications, the consulting firm that guided the Participation Project for the past two years, providing a brief overview of the project, including their extensive interviews with many stakeholders involved in ABET accreditation and the society representative-driven proposals that the project's design teams developed to improve the current recruiting, selection, training, and performance appraisal processes. In addition, several society representatives who were involved in the pilot of the new recruiting and training processes relayed their experiences to their peers.

Armed with this background information, the participants broke into three groups where they began detailed discussions regarding the recruiting and selection phase, the program evaluator training sequence, and the evaluation processes. They had the opportunity to review, ask questions about, and provide feedback regarding the new processes and materials that are now available to their soci-

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Volunteer Spotlight

Dennis George

Dennis K. George, Ph.D., has provided ABET, and particularly its Applied Science Accreditation Commission (ASAC), with unwavering dedication since he first volunteered to serve as a program evaluator for the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) in the mid-1990s.

Since that time, Dennis has been an ASAC commissioner and an Executive Committee member, represented ASAC during several recent Commission Summits, and acted as a co-facilitator and a lead facilitator for ABET faculty workshops. He serves on ABET's Financial Model Task Force and was a member of the Recruitment and Selection Design Team, which proposed the program evaluator competency model that the ABET Board of Directors approved in October 2005. Furthermore, Dennis became the first ABET Board member representing AIHA and, in that role, contributed to the establishment of the current ABET Strategic Plan.

Throughout his service to ABET, Dennis has been a steadfast champion of accreditation's benefits among industrial hygiene programs as well as other disciplines. As ASAC's Chair for the 2005-2006 accreditation cycle, he encouraged the expansion of the disciplines that ASAC accredits by making a high priority the commission's work with geologic societies that are increasingly interested in educational quality assurance. Additionally,



he encouraged cooperation among his commission's societies, such as in his facilitation of an agreement between AIHA and the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) that made the two societies co-leads for the environmental, health, and safety program

criteria that he had co-authored.

A few years ago, Dennis George was promoted from his position as an industrial hygiene professor at Western Kentucky University to that of the institution's Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. In this role, he is responsible for the coordination of strategic planning, assessment, academic program

review, and other continuous quality improvement processes for the entire university. Dennis credits his association with ABET and the experience he gained with the outcomes-based assessment process with his promotion, and he's pleased that he can be an advocate for improvement in academic programs throughout his institution.

"It's true that I've spent a lot of weekends with ABET over the past few years," Dennis said. "But the fact is that I'm the one who's been the most blessed by this association. ABET has given back to me far more than I've ever invested in terms of professional development, opportunities for meaningful public service, and the privilege of associating with some of the most wonderful people on the planet."

Look Ahead

- Oct. 24 — Faculty Workshop on Assessing Program Outcomes
- Oct. 25 — 2006 Commission Summit, featuring "A PEV's Eye View"
- Oct. 26-27 — 2006 ABET Annual Meeting — "The 3rd ABET International Congress on Education, Accreditation, and Practice"

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eties — informational flyers about the role of ABET program evaluators, full-color recruiting advertisements to print in their society publications, the pre-work CD that applicants must complete successfully to begin their training, assessment forms featuring clearly defined rubrics by which to evaluate on-campus performance, and other products. Furthermore, each of the groups laid the foundation for a framework that would help many of the societies implement the changes.

The PAVE kick-off meeting provided an opportunity for lively debate expressing a diversity of viewpoints, the sharing of best practices, and collaboration among many of ABET's societies. However, this process is far from complete. Thoughtful input from all of those involved in ABET accreditation will be vital through every step of the implementation planning and execution.

Among the 44 meeting participants were volunteers involved in program evaluator selection and training for ABET member societies, current members of ABET's commissions, ABET member society staff, ABET staff, and ABET President Richard C. Seagrave. Societies with representatives in attendance included the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), the American Nuclear Society (ANS), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES), CSAB, IEEE, the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE), the National Council of

Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), the National Institute of Ceramic Engineers (NICE), the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), and the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME).

Visit www.abet.org/pave.shtml for updates about this project and its progress, and feel free to provide your thoughts about this implementation to your society's educational representatives or to Gloria Rogers, ABET's Associate Executive Director for Professional Services, at grogers@abet.org.

Full Report of *Engineering Change* Study to Be Released This Month

The full report of *Engineering Change: A Study on the Impact of EC2000* will be released at the end of October. Those attending the events of the 2006 ABET Annual Meeting, October 24-27, will have the opportunity to purchase the report on-site, while orders placed using the form on our website will begin being fulfilled the week of October 30. Pre-ordering is encouraged to prevent processing delays. Visit www.abet.org/order.shtml to download the publications order form.

This comprehensive study, performed by researchers at the Pennsylvania State University Center for the Study of Higher Education, aimed to determine the impact that ABET's outcomes-based accreditation criteria is having on engineering programs and their graduates. The 426-page report documenting this study includes methodology and data collected on seven engineering disciplines and from the 40 participating institutions, their faculty, alumni, and alumni's employers.

The Executive Summary of *Engineering Change* is available electronically at www.abet.org/papers.shtml. Hardcopy versions of this and other ABET publications may be purchased using the forms at www.abet.org/order.shtml.

2007 Faculty Workshop Schedule Announced

Applied science, computing, engineering, technology faculty: Develop your assessment skills by attending an ABET Faculty Workshop on Assessing Program Outcomes. Participants sharpen their assessment knowledge, broaden their understanding of continuous improvement processes, and learn new assessment tools they can implement when they return to campus.

Five faculty workshops have been scheduled for 2007. The registration fee for each workshop is \$350. See www.abet.org/workshop.shtml for a full workshop description, hotel information, deadlines, and more.

- ▶ Saturday, January 13, 2007
Phoenix, AZ
Register by December 20, 2007.
- ▶ Saturday, February 24, 2007
Baltimore, MD
Register by February 9, 2007.
- ▶ Saturday, March 31, 2007
Baltimore, MD
Register by March 9, 2007.
- ▶ Sunday, June 24, 2007
Honolulu, HI
Registration deadline TBA.
- ▶ Tuesday, October 23, 2007
South Lake Tahoe, NV
Register by October 5, 2007.

ABETOnline

- ▶ Register for the ABET Annual Meeting at www.abet.org/register.shtml.
- ▶ Pre-order the *Engineering Change* report at www.abet.org/orders.shtml.
- ▶ See the BAP IX call for proposals at www.rose-hulman.edu/assessment2007.

CommunityMatters™

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Assessment101

Assessment Tips with Gloria Rogers, Ph.D.

Rubrics: What Are They Good For Anyway? Part II

In the last issue of *CommunityMatters*, I discussed how rubrics fit into the assessment schema and provided an example of an assessment rubric.

In this article, I will demonstrate one way to present the results of rubric scoring and discuss various types of rubrics.

When reporting the results of scoring student work against a rubric, a faculty member can represent the data graphically. Using the rubric example in the previous article, if the faculty member is teaching two sections of a course that has a total of 50 students, the results could be communicated as displayed in the example below. This not only demonstrates how many students meet the expected standard of “meets criterion” but also the number who exceed standard and the number that are making progress. These data could also be presented by the percentage of students who fall into each category. If percentages are used, it is important to report the total number of students in the sample/population to provide clear meaning to the results.

Faculty should think through how the data are going to be used before developing a rubric. An **analytic rubric** provides specific information about student performance on any given performance criterion. Using the written communication skills outcome exam-

ple in the previous article for the performance criterion, “Student uses the rules of standard English,” each level of the rubric describes the student performance expected (see rubric in previous article).

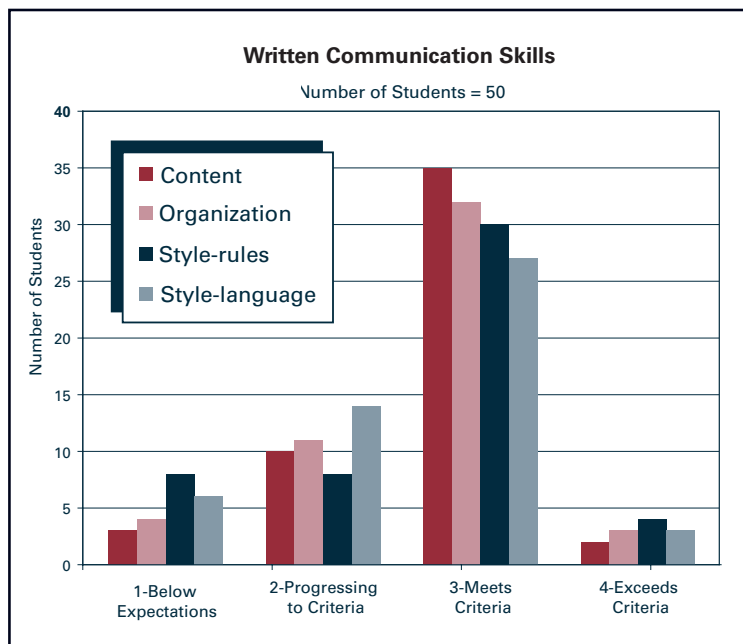
In contrast, a **holistic rubric** is broad in nature and provides information about the overall, general status of student performance. Instead of creating separate categories for each criterion, the criteria are grouped under each level of the rubric. Again using the written communication skills outcome example from the previous article, a score of “2-Progressing to Criteria” would include the following:

- ▶ Includes some details but may include extraneous or loosely related material
- ▶ Achieves little completeness and wholeness, though organization attempted
- ▶ Limited and predictable vocabulary, perhaps not appropriate for intended audience and purpose
- ▶ Generally does not follow the rules of standard English

To see the complete holistic rubric — along with other valuable assessment resources — go to my web page, Assessment Planning with Gloria Rogers, at www.abet.org/assessment.shtml. Although the holistic rubric will give the faculty a sense of how students are doing in a general way, it will not provide information that would enable

them to know what, specifically, needs to be done to improve student performance.

Next month, I’ll explain the difference between generic and task-specific rubrics and discuss how rubric point scales might be determined. Don’t forget: Archives of *CommunityMatters* are available whenever you need them at www.abet.org/newsletter.shtml.



YourCorner

Board of Directors

New Board Member Orientation will be held on October 25 in Tampa. While new members are required to attend, returning members are also welcome to join us for a helpful refresher on your important role. If you would like to attend, please contact Rachelle Daucher at rdaucher@abet.org by October 11.

Commissioners

If you’re giving a presentation at the 2006 Commission Summit, please be sure to send your final slides to Keryl Cryer (kcryer@abet.org) by October 10.

Also, don’t forget to fill out your PEV evaluations — your appraisal is important! Log in to the secure website to find the forms for your visit.

Institutions

Did you know ABET has colorful brochures and posters to help you promote your accredited programs? You can find electronic versions of these and a link to ordering information at www.abet.org/promote.shtml. Your input on these materials is welcome. Is the information in the brochure complete? Are the designs appealing? Would you rather have materials customized for your institution, even if the cost were greater? Please send your feedback to Liz Glazer at eglazer@abet.org.

Member Societies

Sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the PAVE kick-off meeting. The discussion was robust, and the feedback was invaluable. Please keep it coming. Send comments, questions, and suggestions about PAVE to Gloria Rogers at grogers@abet.org.

Program Evaluators

Forgot your user name and password? Can’t find the expense report forms? There’s an FAQ section at www.abet.org/faqs_volunteers.shtml. Think something’s missing? Suggest an FAQ by e-mailing it to eglazer@abet.org.

Also, don’t forget to fill out your team chair evaluations — your feedback is important! To find the forms, just follow the top link at www.abet.org/pev.shtml.

Member Societies

ABET is a federation of 28 professional and technical societies representing the fields of applied science, computing, engineering, and technology:

American Academy of Environmental Engineers	Health Physics Society
American Congress on Surveying and Mapping	IEEE, Inc.
American Industrial Hygiene Association	Institute of Industrial Engineers, Inc.
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc.	ISA-The Instrumentation, Systems, and Automation Society
American Institute of Chemical Engineers	Materials Research Society
American Nuclear Society	National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying
American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers	National Institute of Ceramic Engineers
American Society of Civil Engineers	National Society of Professional Engineers
American Society for Engineering Education	Society of Automotive Engineers
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.	Society of Manufacturing Engineers
The American Society of Mechanical Engineers	Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc.
American Society of Safety Engineers	Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers
Biomedical Engineering Society	Society of Petroleum Engineers
CSAB, Inc.	The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society



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