

AbOut Assessment Software
April 1 (Wed) 11:00-11:50am
EE Conference Room (Main 208)

Attendees:

Jeff Braun, Mitch Deplazes, Bryce Hill, Josh Lee, Celia Schahczenski, Luke Schuler, Mack Sutherland, Dan Trudnowski

11:00 Recap last meeting Luke Schuler

- The observer role will have student names redacted unless the observer is also teaching the course
- EE indicated that the process of expiring outcomes can also be applied to performance criteria

EE later stated that they would like to only expire the outcomes, not the performance criteria (see below).

- Weights will be entered when courses are associated with performance criteria
- Reports need to be renamed

11:05 What weights are legal? Luke Schuler

- Must exceed 0
- Integer or real
- Maximum value?

Weights are assigned to the association of a course to outcomes/performance criteria. These weights should be real numbers (since they used to add up to the number of credits of the course) which must be greater than 0. The maximum weight will be 10.

11:10 UI for adding outcomes and performance criteria Mitch Deplazes

The current interface for adding and editing outcomes was shown, followed by a possible, similar interface for adding and editing performance criteria. Currently AbOut allows the text of outcomes to be edited and those updates will be effective for all reports with data from when the outcome is active. If updating old reports is not wanted, the outcome must be expired and a new outcome created. The new outcome will need to have a new identifier.

Performance criteria will likely change more frequently than outcomes. Ways to update the identifiers for performance criteria and whether or not to expire performance criteria was discussed. EE would like outcomes and performance criteria to be tightly linked so that only outcomes need to be expired. When an already existing performance criterion is to be removed, added or updated from an outcome, the old outcome would be expired and a new one created. Possible a “copy” function could be available to make such changes

easier.

It was suggested that the system generate ids for the performance criteria. It could use numbers and semesters.

Possibly CAC a Fall 2011 becomes CAC a Fall 2015

Dan likes system automatically generating numbers for performance criteria .1, .2, etc.

It was decided that our class should look into what we think would work best and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

It was stated that ABET will likely be changing outcomes names to numbers. (The current system will be able to handle this)

Note that programs will now need to be:

EAC SE
EAC EE
CAC CS

11:25 Department of administrators and observers (not for faculty)

Josh Lee

- Difference between programs and departments

AbOut currently assumes everyone is in the CS department and that there are two programs (degrees) – CS and SE.

It was pointed out that ABET doesn't care about departments, only about programs. Administrators and observers can be associated with one or more programs. They don't need to be associated with departments at all.

- Example: When EE Admin adds a new user, can assume that the new user is in EE?

Administrators and observers are associated with one or more programs. Faculty members teach classes which will be part of one or more programs. The faculty members themselves do not need to be associated with a department or program.

- Example: When an outcome/performance criterion is created, can assume that it is associated with EE? (For CS would be two programs, CS or SE.

Outcomes/performance criteria are associated with exactly one program.

- When creating a course, it can be associated with all programs

Courses need to be associated with programs. Metric results should only be calculated for the students who are earning a degree in the program. Right now AbOut is combining CS and SE students. ABET accreditors might not approve. EE was collecting metrics on the entire Circuits I class and was “dinged” because they should have only been measuring their students.

Faculty associated with multiple programs may need a filter to switch views between different programs. Alternatively, a different course could be created for every program which it is associated with.

11:40 Report names

Mack Sutherland

- Overview Course Report -> Course/Outcome or simply “Overview”
- Overview Outcome Report -> Outcome/Semester or simply “Semester”

The convention for graphs is independent variable name, dependent variable name. That is, x-axis, y-axis name. However, the reports are not graphs but tables. For tables it makes sense to give name of attribute that runs down the column, followed by the name of attribute that runs across the top.

Thus, the first report would be called Course Outcome and the second Outcome Semester. The other report names were not changed.

11:50 Next meeting – April 15 Changed to April 17 (Friday)

Mack Sutherland