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DRAFT STANDARDS AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS

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ABSTRACT

The Committee on Standards for Assessment Instruments of the Association for Business Simulation and Experiential Learning (ABSEL) presents its proposal. Standards for design, packaging, and piloting, procedures for registration, and fees are discussed.

PREAMBLE

Assessing business education and enhancing it are different processes. Although many simulations and experiential exercises are instruments that can serve either process, each process places distinctly different requirements on the instrument used. Whereas enhancement requires instruments that further understanding of concepts, assessment requires instruments that give scores evidencing competencies. Because the utility of assessment instruments depends on their wide adoption, so that scores obtained from one population and setting may be compared with those obtained elsewhere, standards for such instruments and procedures for their registration can facilitate their development and use.

STANDARDS

An instrument viable for widespread use in assessment must be a finished product. It must be adequate in design and packaging, and must have been adequately piloted in its target population.

Standard for Design

The instrument must give rise to an objective score. The score should be rationally tied to performance such that the better the participants play the more likely they are to score well. The vagaries of circumstance should not substantially affect the score.

Standard for Packaging

The instrument must be available for adoption as a packaged set. An instructor's manual must be included.

Standard for Piloting

The instrument must have been piloted in its target population. The results of piloted usage must have been published in a refereed publication.

REGISTRATION

So that potential users might know of instruments that have met the standards, ABSEL registers assessment instruments. The decision to accept an instrument for registration is at the discretion of the ABSEL's Committee on Standards for Assessment Instruments. Registered assessment instruments will be listed as such in *Developments in Business Simulation & Experiential Exercises*, ABSEL's annual conference proceedings.

Registration is effective for one year from the date of decision. To be considered for registration, an author of the instrument must apply directly to the chair of the Committee. The application must include a cover letter requesting registration, payment of a USD \$100 application fee that is not refundable (enclose money order or check payable to *ABSEL*), and four copies of the following:

1. the instrument package
2. reprint(s) of the published piece(s) in which piloted usage was discussed
3. a brief explanation of how the instrument meets the standards

Registration may be renewed annually. Applications for renewal of registration are processed in the same manner as a first registration. They must be accompanied by a cover letter requesting renewal of registration, payment of a USD \$50 application fee that is not refundable, and four copies of the following:

1. additions or revisions to the package, if any
2. reprint(s) of new published piece(s) in which usage was discussed
3. a brief explanation of how the instrument may have been changed