



Thu, September 11, 2025
RE: ABET Review of Manufacturing Systems Engineering

To: Faculty Senate Executive Committee:

On behalf of Weber State University College of Engineering, Applied Sciences & Technology (EAST), it is a pleasure to write this letter in support of Manufacturing Systems Engineering (MSE) as evaluated by ABET in the 2024 accreditation visits. Thank you to the ABET teams and to the MSE team, especially Dr. Mary Foss. The visit was generally very positive citing EAST faculty practical industry and government experience as an institutional strength. The visiting committee noted two weaknesses and one concern – corresponding to lab personnel support. With the responses of the department this spring the program has successfully completed review until the next accreditation visit commencing Fall 2030 as outlined in the ABET Final Statement. Also, the dean’s commitment to providing sufficient technical staff for MSE lab support to supplement and ultimately offload faculty lab maintenance responsibilities will mitigate the single ABET concern (which did not require immediate remediation as it is a lower status ABET critique of the department) so that it does not escalate into a future weakness.

One reported “weakness” pointed to class artifacts lacking sufficient evidence to achieve continuous improvement goals. The college places a high priority on continuously assessing and enhancing our programs to better prepare students for the work force. The program response (see *MSE Post-30 Day Response*) on this item is fully supported by the Dean’s office, as it relates to course delivery, curriculum, and proper tracking of student demonstrated skillsets and objectives. Details on specific courses and assessment artifacts expansion efforts are included in the program response and were accepted by the accreditors as appropriate remediation for this weakness. The second reported “weakness” was adhering to safety concerns in the laboratories, primarily safety signage and accessibility to personal protective equipment (PPE). The program addressed this weakness by providing visual evidence of safety measures and the college is committed to sustaining proper safety signage and PPE for classrooms and labs going forward.

As referenced above, the “concern” focused on ensuring adequate technical staff to maintain and administer labs. The program currently has a full time staff lab supervisor who is gradually taking on more responsibilities through training. This has been reported to the ABET review team. Although guaranteeing new staff or faculty positions is challenging during this time of budget cuts and reorganization, the department/program needs for lab personnel will be examined and can be resolved with a combination of efficiency assessment and possibly additional student or staff personnel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Rague".

Dr. Brian W. Rague, PhD
Dean, College of Engineering, Applied Sciences & Technology (EAST), Weber State University.

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