

1035-Z1-1144

Laurie A Dunlap* (Laurie.Dunlap@uakron.edu), Department of Theoretical and Applied Math., Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, Akron, OH 44325-4002. *A Means for Updating and Validating Mathematics Programs.*

The purpose of this paper is to detail the steps of a Delphi survey conducted for the purpose of producing rated questions for use in a cyclical process of updating and validating mathematics departments programs. The participants of the survey consisted of administrators and faculty from a random sample of departments across the Midwest. Discussed are the factors triggering the need for reform, the construction of the rated questions, and the distillation of the responses into their underlying categories using principle components analysis. These categories also encompass the questions that were independently generated by the Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics (CUPM). The similarities between the two sets serves as validation for both. It is hoped that these results can be used as a starting point to assess departments in other disciplines. (Received September 18, 2007)