The Path to Preeminence

August 10, 2015
University HLC Accreditation

- Higher Learning Commission
  - Accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the North Central region
  - Accreditation is a determining factor for Title IV funding
Accreditation?

• Accreditation is external peer-review to assess quality assurance and quality improvement
• Standardizes higher learning assessment throughout the region/nation
• Review based on University-prepared ‘assurance argument’ submitted to the commission
• Occurs every 10 years.
| Basically... |

Final exam
...but also...

Progress toward HSI Status
| Background |

- 1967: University accreditation granted
- 1977: Accreditation continued
- 1987: Accreditation continued
- 1997: Accreditation continued
- 2007: Accreditation continued
- 2017: April 2017 Site Visit
April 2009 Monitoring Report:

- Criteria 4: Acquisition, Discovery and Application of Knowledge
  - Concern with general studies program originally identified in 1997
  - Subsequent reexamination and revision was in beginning stages during 2007 site visit. Reviewers asked for a status update in 2009 monitoring report.
2007
University accreditation continued

2007
University submits monitoring report

2009
University submits monitoring report

2010-2014
Continual quality enhancements in progress

Spring 2015
Accreditation steering committee formed

September 1, 2015
First draft of assurance argument to be reviewed by committee

2015

Spring 2015
Accreditation steering committee formed

2015
September, 1 2015
First draft of assurance argument to be reviewed by committee

2016

Fall/Winter 2015/2016
Subsequent drafts shared with campus to solicit feedback

04/10/17-4/11/17
Site visit

2016

April 7, 2016
Final draft completed

2017

THE PATH TO PREEMINENCE
| Five Criteria |

• **Criterion One: Mission**
  – The institution’s mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution’s operations.

• **Criterion Two: Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct**
  – The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.
• **Criterion Three: Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support**
  – The institution provides high quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered

• **Criterion Four: Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement**
  – The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments, and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.
| Five Criteria |

• **Criterion Five. Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness**
  
  – The institution’s resources, structures, and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities. The institution plans for the future.
Accreditation Work Teams

- **Criterion One: Mission**
  - Convener:
    - Joan Foster, Dean of the School of Letters, Arts, and Sciences
Accreditation Work Teams

- Criterion Two: Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
  - Convener:
    - Linda Stroup, Nursing Department Chair, Associate Professor
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- Criterion Three: Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support
  - Convener:
    - Dave Weiden, Assistant Professor of Political Science
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• Criterion Four: Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
  – Convener: Michael Erskine, Director of the Educational Technology Center
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- Criterion Five.
  Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness
  - Convener: Liz Hinde, Dean of School of Education
Accreditation Work Teams

- Team 6: Assumed Practices and Federal Compliance
  - Convener: Greg Clifton, Chair and Associate Professor of Accounting Department
Accreditation Work Teams

• Team 7: Communications
  – Convener: Dan Vaccaro, Assistant Director of Content for Marketing and Communications
| Status |

• Holding bi-monthly steering committee meetings to keep everything on track
• Resource/data gathering
• Utilizing Office 365 share-point to coordinate efforts
• Initial drafts from work groups completed September 1
| So What? |

- Board of Trustees responsibility
  - Oversight
  - Review
  - Approval
| Questions? |

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