WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Reaffirmation of Accreditation
Higher Learning Commission

Briefing to the
Academic Senate
October 5, 2016
OVERVIEW

- **BACKGROUND:**
  Wayne State University Regional Accreditation
  - History
  - Current Context

- **REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION:** Four Parts
  - Components of Our Submission
  - Peer Review Process

- **CRITERIA FOR ACCREDITATION**
  - HLC Rating Process
  - Potential Review Outcomes
  - Self-assessment

- **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

- **QUESTIONS**
BACKGROUND

WAYNE STATE

HLC Accreditation
### The past decade: framing our challenges

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<td>national higher education reform agenda emerges and gains momentum</td>
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<td>major revision of HLC accreditation criteria</td>
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<td>STUDENT-CENTERED VALUES</td>
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<td>WSU executive leadership turnover</td>
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<td>cumulative state funding reductions for higher education impacts WSU budget</td>
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<td>declining high school graduates</td>
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<td>declining WSU enrollment and revenues</td>
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<td>preparation for 2017 HLC accreditation</td>
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# Timeline of engagement: HLC’17

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Jan-June</th>
<th>July-Dec</th>
<th>Jan-June</th>
<th>July-Dec</th>
<th>Jan-June</th>
<th>July-Dec</th>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>PRESIDENT/GOVERNANCE</td>
<td>PROVOST</td>
<td>PRESIDENT'S CABINET</td>
<td>HLC’17 CO-CHAIRS</td>
<td>DEANS</td>
<td>FACULTY GOVERNANCE</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>FACULTY</td>
<td>FACULTY</td>
<td>FACULTY</td>
<td>DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE</td>
<td>DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE</td>
<td>EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS</td>
<td>CAMPUS-WIDE ENGAGEMENT</td>
<td>CAMPUS-WIDE ENGAGEMENT</td>
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REAFFIRMATION OF HLC ACCREDITATION:
Four Parts

1. Quality Initiative
2. Assurance Argument
3. Federal Compliance Filing
4. Peer Review
The Quality Initiative (QI) is the first step of the HLC 10-year reaffirmation process

- In advance of the 10-year review, institutions on the Open Pathway self-identify a QI focus to address its unique challenges

- WSU selected the Undergraduate Academic Advising Initiative as its QI (August 2014)
1. The Quality Initiative

STATUS

- QI completed (August 2016)
- QI panel review favorable (September 2016)

“This WSU initiative was an exemplary undertaking and should help the institution effectively serve its students and community and serve as a foundation for long-term sustainability.”

- Final report to HLC (August 2016) may be downloaded at:

  http://hlc.wayne.edu/quality-initiative.php
WHAT IT IS

- The **Assurance Argument** is the institution’s **official “case”** for reaffirmation of HLC accreditation
  - A succinct defense of all accreditation criteria, core components, and sub-components (**35,000 word limit**)
  - Each and every statement defending fulfillment of accreditation criteria **must** be hyperlinked to a series of evidentiary exhibits. (Examples: board documents, institutional policies, official reports, etc.)

- The **Evidence File** is the aggregate of all evidentiary exhibits supporting the Assurance Argument
# STATUS

## Assurance Argument and Evidence File

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<tr>
<th>MILESTONE</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<td>Q3</td>
<td>Q4</td>
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<td>Steering Committee orientation/education</td>
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<td>Assurance Argument Draft 1 completed</td>
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<td>Steering Committee Retreat</td>
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<td>Assurance Argument draft evaluation</td>
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<td>Criterion Team assignments</td>
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<td>Steering Committee Retreat</td>
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<td>Strategy Session</td>
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<td>Criterion Team Work Sessions</td>
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<td>Assurance Argument refinement</td>
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<td>Evidence portfolio consensus</td>
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<tr>
<td>** INTEGRATION IN PROGRESS **</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criterion drafts</td>
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<td>Evidence portfolios</td>
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3. Federal Compliance Filing

WHAT IT IS

- The Federal Compliance Filing is a comprehensive version of what of the annual **HLC Institutional Update**, which reports on issues such as:
  - Title IV program responsibilities
  - Title IX program responsibilities
  - Other U.S. Department of Education regulations

STATUS

- Work team preparing content; documents pending update for FY15/16 activity (December/January)
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>September/October 2016…</strong></th>
<th><strong>March 6-7, 2017…</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>▪ HLC appoints peer review team Chair and members</td>
<td><strong>On-campus comprehensive evaluation visit</strong> includes:</td>
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<td><strong>February 2017…</strong></td>
<td>▪ Standard meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Peer review team accesses WSU online Assurance System to evaluate submission</td>
<td>– e.g., Board of Governors, President and Provost, other institutional officers</td>
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<td>▪ Team identifies issues; requests additional information from WSU</td>
<td>▪ Meetings targeted to issues identified by team</td>
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<td>▪ Team Chair and WSU leadership develop on-campus review schedule</td>
<td>▪ Public forums, which may be segmented by:</td>
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<td>– Stakeholder group (students, faculty, etc.)</td>
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<td>– Individual review criteria</td>
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CRITERIA FOR ACCREDITATION

Effective January 1, 2013
Criteria Hierarchy

- **CRITERIA**
- **CORE COMPONENTS**
- **CORE SUB-COMPONENTS**

- n = 5
- n = 21
- n = 68
HLC Criteria

Criterion One
Mission
Sandy Yee

Criterion Two
Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
Carolyn Hafner

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Criterion Three
Quality, Resources, and Support
Loraleigh Keashly, Matt Ouellette

Criterion Four
Evaluation and Improvement
Cathy Barrette

Criterion Five
Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness
Alicia Pendleton
HLC Peer Reviewer Options

- Peer reviewers assign each Criterion **Core Component** a rating for merit

**POTENTIAL RATINGS:**

- **MET**
- **MET WITH CONCERNS**
- **NOT MET**

- Rating for the overall **Criterion** is determined by the rating for its weakest **Core Component**
- The institution meets the Criterion only if all Core Components are met
We’re only as strong as our weakest link…

A HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE:

- **CORE COMPONENT A**
  - MET

- **CORE COMPONENT B**
  - MET

- **CORE COMPONENT C**
  - MET WITH CONCERNS

- **CORE COMPONENT D**
  - MET

Criterion X
MET WITH CONCERNS
## SELF-ASSESSMENT

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<tr>
<th><strong>Pockets of Excellence</strong></th>
<th><strong>Potential Gaps</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Too many to enumerate</td>
<td>▪ Transparency of consumer information</td>
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<td></td>
<td>▪ Systematic and integrated planning</td>
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<td>▪ Assessment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>▪ Data-driven continuous improvement history</td>
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Why we’re vulnerable

- Our risk is **NOT** in what we do.
- It’s in the expected insufficiency of our evidence:
  - **Breadth of coverage** across all academic units, programs, etc.
  - Quality of data
  - Duration of data collection
- **Depth of analysis** of captured data
- **Clear and documented links to action** from analysis
HOW YOU CAN HELP...

HLC Accreditation
Four months remaining…

TODAY

Feb. 6, 2017
Assurance Argument
“locked down”

March 6-10, 2017
HLC Comprehensive Evaluation Visit
Communications Plan

**Continuing…**
- Engagement Meetings
  - Academic units, Faculty Senate, administrative units, other groups

**Starts October…**
- MaC Scope of Work
  - Print, electronic, video, signage

**December…**
- Publication of formal Request for Public Comment (federal requirement)

**Starts January…**
- DoSO Scope of Work
  - Student engagement
- Key Messaging Campaign

**Mid-January…**
- Assurance Argument final draft posted for information and comment
  - [hlc.wayne.edu](http://hlc.wayne.edu)

**January 17-26…**
- Survey of Students (Administered by HLC)
how you can help.

mark your calendar
learn the facts

spread the word
be informed

KNOW OUR MISSION
mark your calendar.

Monday and Tuesday

March 2017 6 7 March 2017
learn the facts.

Who?
- The Higher Learning Commission (HLC)

What?
- Reaffirmation of Wayne State University 10-year Accreditation

When?
- March 6-7, 2017

Where?
- Wayne State University Campuses
spread the word.

Who needs to know?
Your entire Wayne State family. Faculty and staff. Students. Alumni and volunteers.

Ask your marketing expert.

- Add the **mission statement** to your **course syllabus** or email **tagline**
- Put it on **Blackboard** or **pop a quiz**
- Add to **web content** and **newsletters**
- Have a hallway conversation!
be informed.

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Accreditation

WSU Mission and Strategic Plan
What is accreditation?
Criteria for HLC Accreditation
HLC’17 process
Quality Initiative
Timeline
Read HLC’07 Self-study
How you can help
Team members
Contact us

Celebrating 100 years of HLC Accreditation

"It's a point of pride that Wayne State University has passed the 100-year milestone of continuous accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission."

Sandra Yee
Steering Committee Co-chair, HLC’07 and HLC’17
Dean, University Library System
The institution’s mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution’s operations.

- The institution’s mission is broadly understood within the institution and guides its operations.
- The mission is articulated publicly.
“...The HLC expects everyone who is a part of this university to know our mission. That’s everyone: faculty, staff, students, administration; even our Board of Governors. And they’re going to ask, randomly, on our campus and in our community.”

President M. Roy Wilson
September 12, 2016
Wayne State University Mission

We will create and advance knowledge, prepare a diverse student body to thrive, and positively impact local and global communities.
QUESTIONS?

hlc.accreditation@wayne.edu

HLC Accreditation