

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Reaffirmation of Accreditation
Higher Learning Commission



HLC Accreditation

Briefing to the
Academic Senate
October 5, 2016

OVERVIEW

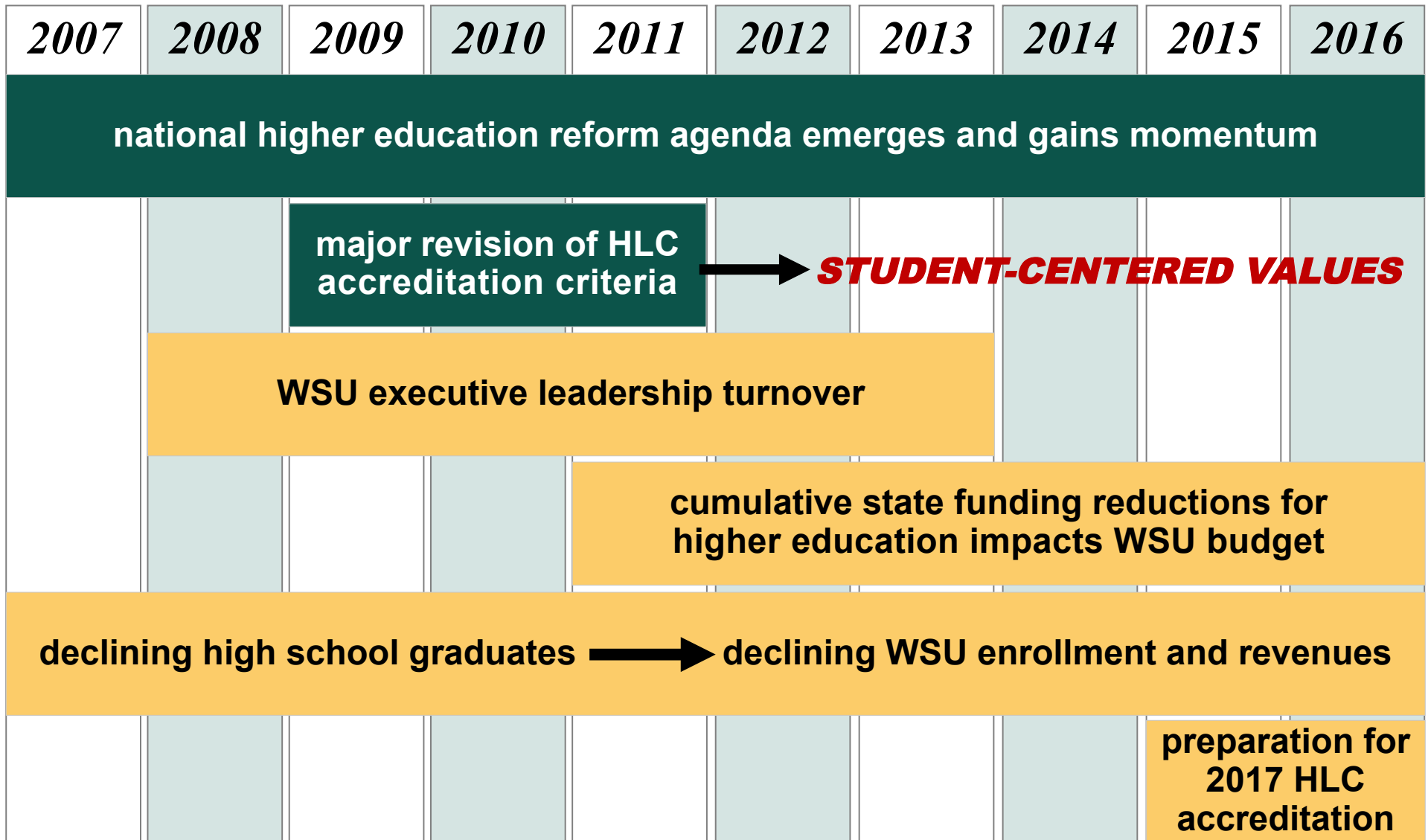
- **BACKGROUND:**
Wayne State University Regional Accreditation
 - History
 - Current Context
- **REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION: Four Parts**
 - Components of Our Submission
 - Peer Review Process
- **CRITERIA FOR ACCREDITATION**
 - HLC Rating Process
 - Potential Review Outcomes
 - Self-assessment
- **HOW YOU CAN HELP**
- **QUESTIONS**

BACKGROUND



HLC Accreditation

The past decade: framing our challenges



Timeline of engagement: HLC'17

2014		2015		2016	
<i>Jan-June</i>	<i>July-Dec</i>	<i>Jan-June</i>	<i>July-Dec</i>	<i>Jan-June</i>	<i>July-Dec</i>
PRESIDENT/ GOVERNANCE	PROVOST	HLC'17 CO-CHAIRS	FACULTY GOVERNANCE	MARKETING/ COMMUN- ICATIONS	CAMPUS-WIDE ENGAGEMENT
	PRESIDENT'S CABINET	DEANS	FACULTY	DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE	EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT
	QUALITY INITIATIVE	STEERING COMMITTEE			

REAFFIRMATION OF HLC ACCREDITATION:

Four Parts



HLC Accreditation

1. Quality Initiative
2. Assurance Argument
3. Federal Compliance Filing
4. Peer Review

1.

The Quality Initiative

WHAT IT IS

- 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>

2.

Assurance Argument and Evidence File

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

2.

STATUS

Assurance Argument and Evidence File

MILESTONE	2015		2016			
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Steering Committee orientation/education	July-Dec					
Assurance Argument Draft 1 completed			Jan			
Steering Committee Retreat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance Argument draft evaluation Criterion Team assignments 			Feb			
Steering Committee Retreat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy Session 				May		
Criterion Team Work Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance Argument refinement Evidence portfolio consensus 				May-Sept		
** INTEGRATION IN PROGRESS ** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criterion drafts Evidence portfolios 					ACTIVE	

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)

4.

HLC Peer Review

By a 6-10 member peer review team

September/October 2016...

- HLC appoints peer review team Chair and members

February 2017...

- Peer review team accesses WSU online Assurance System to evaluate submission
- Team identifies issues; requests additional information from WSU
- Team Chair and WSU leadership develop on-campus review schedule

March 6-7, 2017...

On-campus **comprehensive evaluation visit** includes:

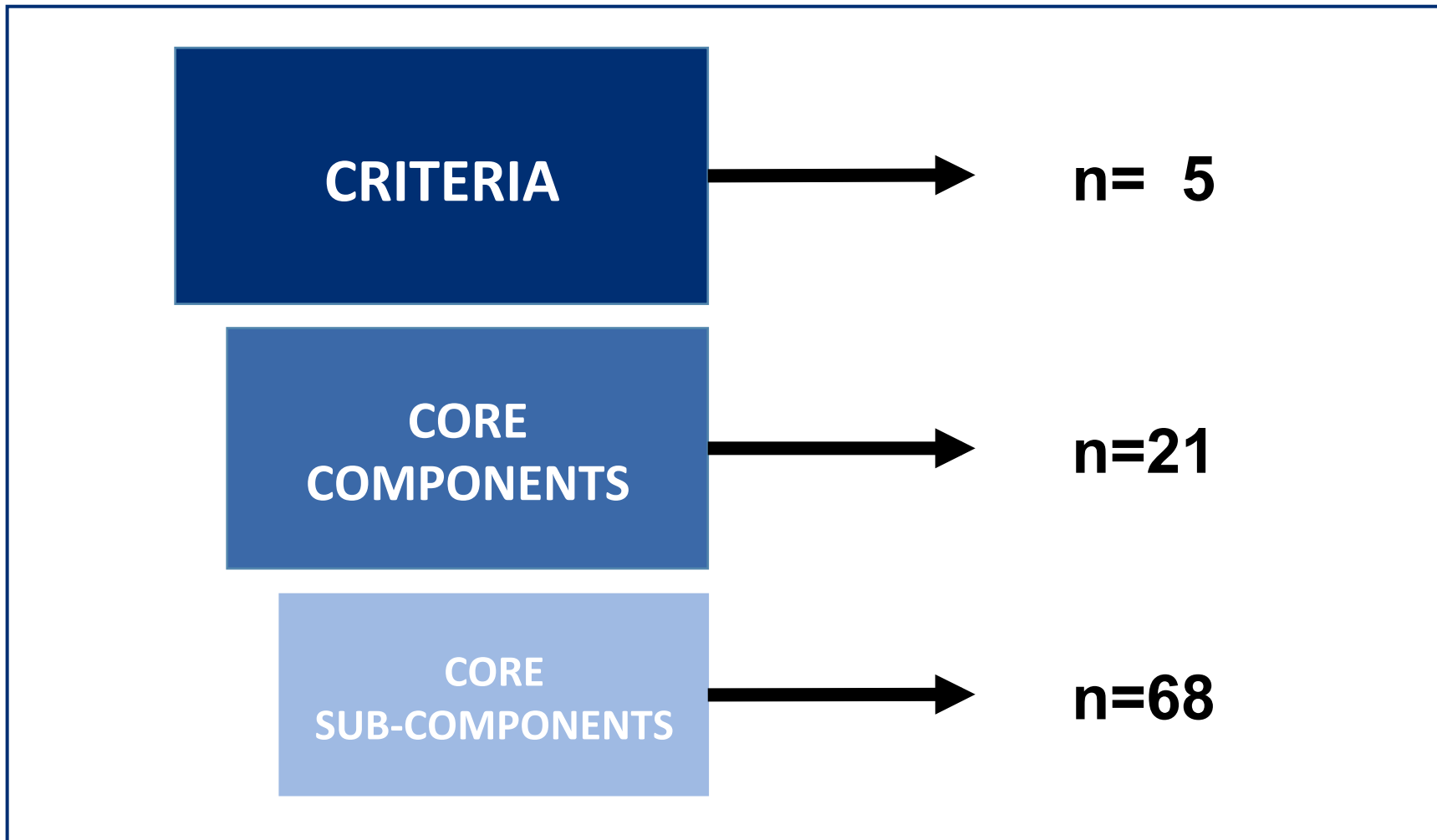
- Standard meetings
 - e.g., Board of Governors, President and Provost, other institutional officers
- Meetings targeted to issues identified by team
- Public forums, which may be segmented by:
 - Stakeholder group (students, faculty, etc.)
 - Individual review criteria

CRITERIA FOR ACCREDITATION

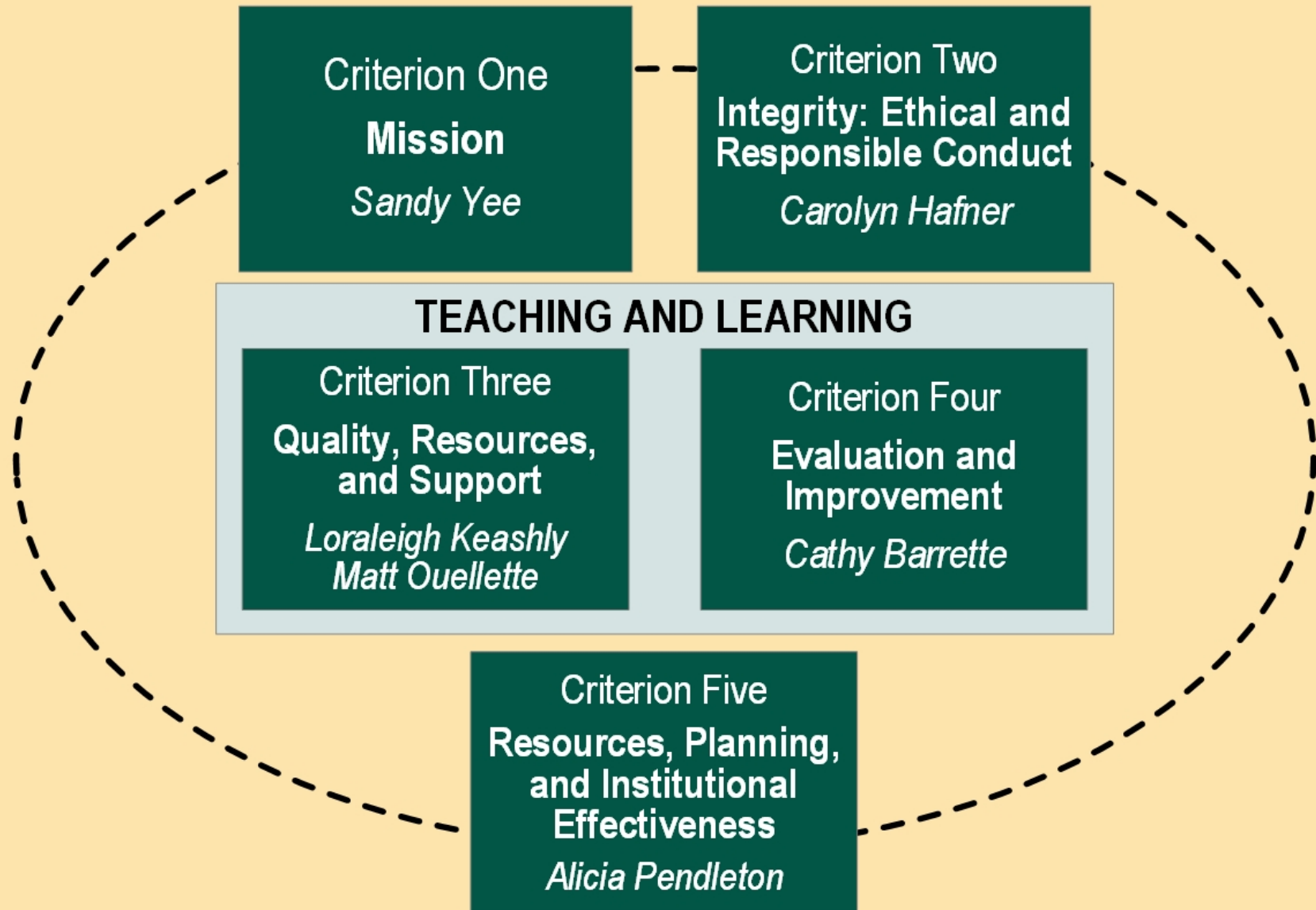


Effective January 1, 2013

Criteria Hierarchy



HLC Criteria



HLC Peer Reviewer Options

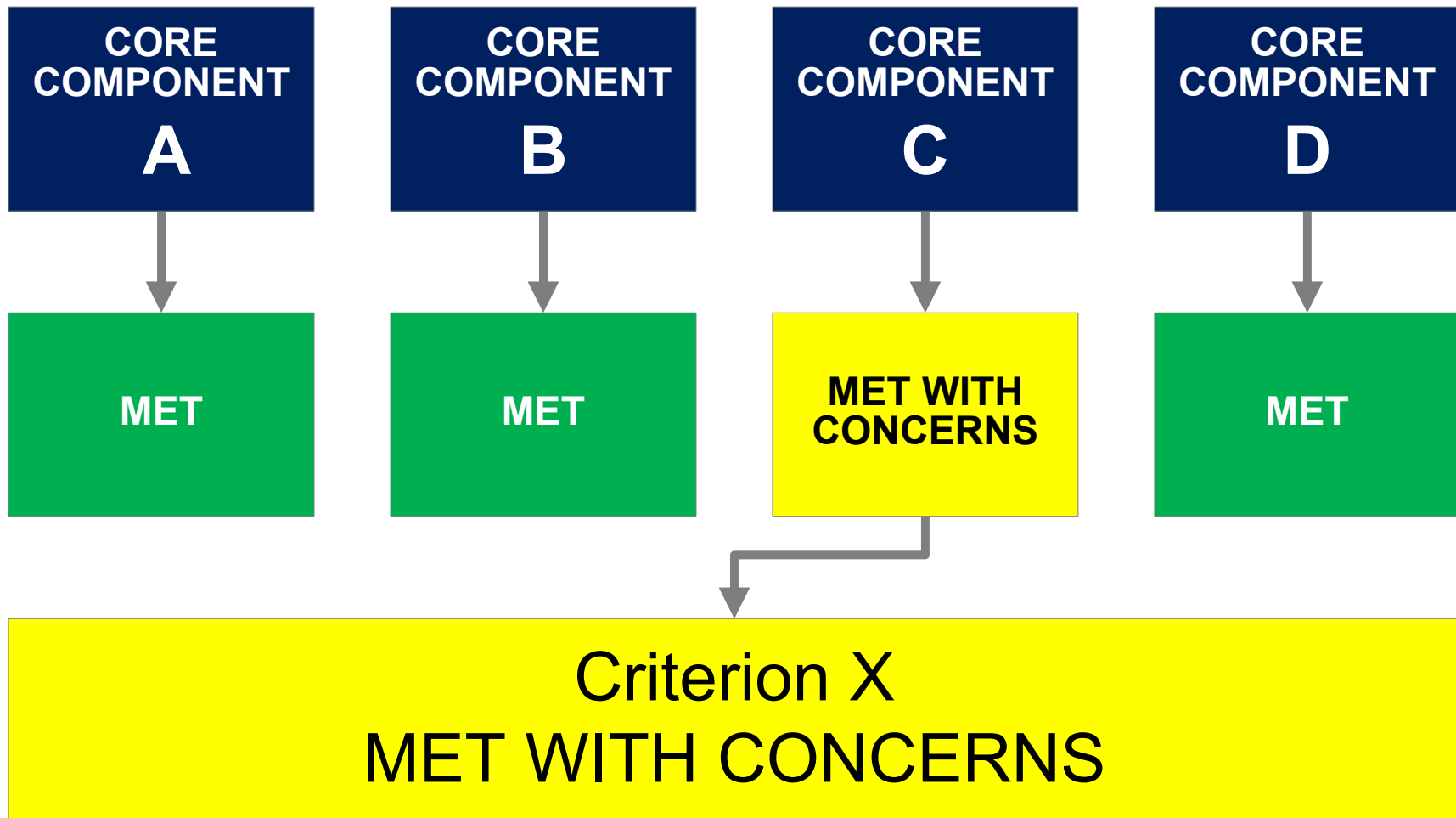
- Peer reviewers assign each Criterion **Core Component** a rating for merit

POTENTIAL RATINGS:



- 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:



SELF-ASSESSMENT



Pockets of Excellence

- Too many to enumerate



Potential Gaps

- Transparency of consumer information
- Systematic and integrated planning
- Assessment
- Data-driven continuous improvement history

Why we're vulnerable

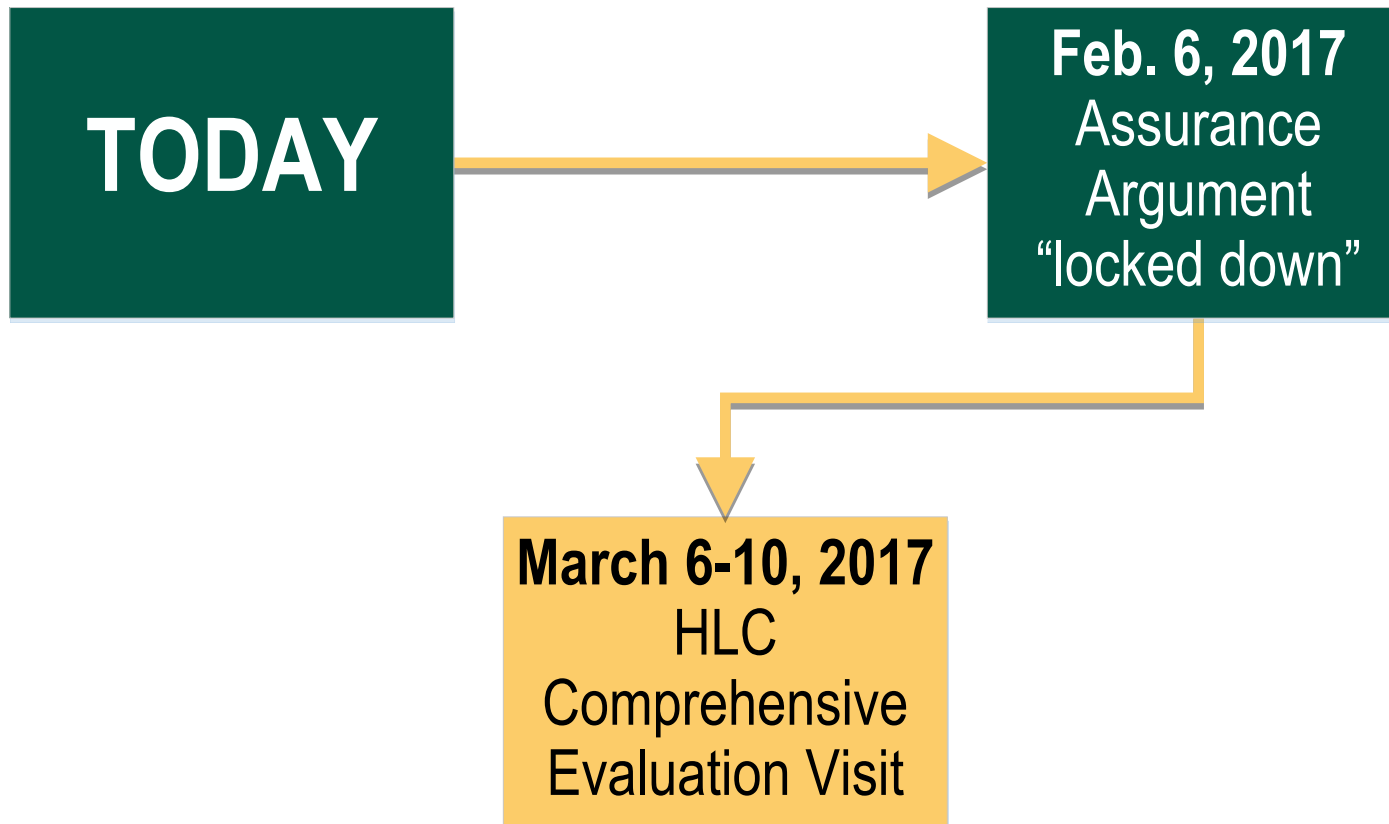
- Our risk is **NOT** in what we do.
- It's in the expected insufficiency of our evidence:
 - **Breadth of coverage** across all academic units, programs, etc.
 - ◆ Quality of data
 - ◆ Duration of data collection
 - **Depth of analysis** of captured data
 - **Clear and documented links to action** from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

HOW YOU CAN HELP...



HLC Accreditation

Four months remaining...



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

January 17-26...

- Survey of Students (Administered by HLC)

how you can help.

**mark your
calendar**

**learn the
facts**

**KNOW
OUR
MISSION**

**spread
the word**

**be
informed**

mark your calendar.

Monday and Tuesday

March 2017

6

March 2017

7

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.

hlc.wayne.edu

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Search...



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

DO YOU KNOW OUR MISSION?



CRITERION ONE MISSION

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.

Annual University Address

“...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