

## The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Continued Accreditation Progress Report

Site Visit Dates: April 18-20, 2011

### Board Update Agenda

1. Introduction of Core Team – Robbie
2. Overview of the Criteria for Accreditation and Emerging Phenomena – Mike
3. Status of Self-Study – Sandy
4. Next Steps – Chris
5. Expectations of the board – Robbie
6. Questions/Comments – Robbie

### A Changing Environment

- More attention to planning, diversity, assessment, governance, and finances (*and these are the most common follow-ups*)
- Increased scrutiny of distance education (online)
- Increased scrutiny of Federal Compliance Issues (*e.g. authentication of student identity, transfer, transparency, complaint processes*)
- More attention to other location – assuring comparative levels of student and staff support
- Alignment of actions with strategic plans and mission
- Use of data in decision-making

### Purposes of the FSU Process and Status of Report and Planned Outcomes

As a result of the HLC Reaccreditation Self-Study Process, the following outcomes are planned:

1. **Mission Focus:** Expanded focus on Ferris' mission and goals, including student success and our values of collaboration, excellence, diversity, ethical community, and learning, and opportunity.
2. **Awareness:** Enhanced knowledge among all stakeholders concerning our services, programming, strengths, challenges, and opportunities
3. **Data Use:** Increased emphasis upon the use and transparency of data/information to inform planning and service and program improvements
4. **Action:** Movement to address identified challenges through existing or ad hoc university processes
5. **Celebration:** Successful reaccreditation effort, with multiple areas of commendation and recognition of exemplary practices and programs with no follow-up requirements

### Simplified Timeline:

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| 2007 | We initiated our reaccreditation efforts in the fall of 2007 by forming Steering, Criterion, and Data Committees.  |
| 2008 | The Criterion Committees began the process of inventorying, collecting, reviewing, and making meaning of data. Preliminary findings provided a basis for campus-wide surveys, the results of which informed draft reports. |
| 2009 | In late August 2009, the Criterion Committees submitted draft reports to the report editor/writer (Sandy Balkema) and the HLC Steering Committee.  |
| 2010 | The draft Self-Study report is in the process of being finished and disseminated for campus, community, and Board of Trustees' input.  |
| 2011 | HLC Team visits campus April 18 – 20, 2011   |

### Next Steps:

1. Broadly disseminate the report, after President's Council review and feedback
2. Invite input
3. Conduct focus groups with varied groups – on campus, at other locations, with students, etc.
4. Finalize self-study, for publication by early January 2011
5. Prepare campus for visit – assure people know the process, know how they were involved, know what we learned, and know what types of questions they may be asked. Some role-play events will be facilitated with key groups.
6. Prepare to celebrate a successful visit in April 2011

# Board of Trustees Report – July 14, 2010

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## What is Expected of Board Members:

The visiting team will expect the following of the Board of Trustees:

1. Availability of a majority of board members during the visit, either via telephone or in person
2. Awareness of the expectations associated with the Criteria for Accreditation, in broad terms
3. Knowledge of the self-study process and its findings
4. Interest in the findings – often evidenced by discussions reflect in board minutes
5. Commitment to making any identified needed improvements
6. Clarity in the role of the board in overall governance and policy oversight

Keep apprised of Ferris' progress at: <http://www.ferris.edu/hlc>

Send comments to: [hlcselfstudy@ferris.edu](mailto:hlcselfstudy@ferris.edu)

