

Higher Learning Commission (HLC)

Why is this Important?

1. federal financial aid is contingent upon the University's being accredited, and about 80% of our students access this aid;
2. credits from accredited institutions are transferable, while those from unaccredited institutions generally are not; and,
3. students are reluctant (appropriately) to enroll at an unaccredited institution.

The self-study process must be:

- comprehensive
- inclusive
- introspective
- critical
- valuable

How Are We Organized?

- 5 Major Criterion Committees
- The Data Committee
- Other Representatives
 - Academic Senate
 - Kendall
 - AFSCME
 - HLC Peer Reviewers – from FSU
- 105 people – *not* including the Criterion Sub-Committees
 - Each College is Represented
 - 40% Faculty
 - Administrative Assistants/Clerical/Technical/Physical Plant/Administrators/Students/Community Members/Board Member – Sueann Walz

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Steering Committee

- **Steering Committee Co-Chairs**
 - Mike Cairns
 - Mike Cooper
- **Criterion 1: Mission and Integrity**
Co-Chairs
 - Paul Blake
 - Abdi Ferdowsi
- **Criterion 2: Preparing for the Future**
Co-Chairs
 - Mike Hughes
 - Caroline Stern
- **Criterion 3: Student Learning and Effective Teaching**
Co-Chairs
 - Ron McKean
 - Chris VonderHaar
- **Criterion 4: Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge**
Co-Chairs
 - Julia Rodriguez
 - Steve Durst
- **Criterion 5: Engagement and Service**
Co-Chairs
 - Wendy Samuels
 - Leroy Wright
- **Data Committee Co-Chairs**
 - Kristen Salomonson
 - Katherine Manley

- **Academic Senate Representative**

- Rick Griffin

- **Kendall Representative**

- Oliver Evans

- **Business Affairs Representative**

- Sharon Richards

- **AFSCME Representative**

- Tom Weaver

- **Data Committee:**
Co-Chairs

- Kitty Manley
- Kristen Salomonson

- **Board of Trustees Representative**

- Sue Walz

- **Associate VP Academic Affairs - Self-Study Coordinator**

- Roberta Teahen

- **Self-Study Writer/Editor**

- Sandy Balkema

- **Internal Consultants - HLC Peer Reviewers**

- Oliver Evans
- Doug Haneline
- Michelle Johnston
- Tom Oldfield

Present Engagement

- At this moment, X individuals are involved in the varied committees, representing all major areas of the University
- By the time the self-study is complete, every individual on the campus – including our students – will have had the opportunity to offer their views on important questions

Additional Benefits That Can Result

- Continue to advance the strategic planning initiatives by identifying successes and opportunities for improvement
- Expanding stakeholders' understanding of the new mission, vision, and strategic directions of the University
- Provide opportunities for all to engage in advancing the University toward its vision

How can you help?

- Ask us key questions...
 - What should our students learn?
 - What are they learning?
 - How do we know?
- Participate w/us in our self-study (e.g. focus group session later in the process)
- Critically review the self-study document(s)
- Join us when the HLC visits our campus in 2010/11