HLC Visit Update

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Focused Visit was completed December 3-4. Approximately 100 people participated in the visit. A thank you to the Chancellors, Provosts, CBOs, SSAOs, branch campus leadership, faculty, staff, and students who participated in person or by phone.

The focused visit was successful due to the high level of engagement by the Receiving Institutions (RIs) who are making solid progress completing the activities associated with Phase 1 of the restructuring project. In about a month, the HLC reviewers will provide a report with their findings and recommendations from the HLC Focused Visit Report and Focused Visit.

The report, with more than 1,000 pages of documentation, consisted of a systemwide overview of the restructuring activities guided by customized Memorandums of Understanding. The report included information about enrollment, budget, transition of UW College programs to the receiving institutions, personnel transitions, course offering schedules by campus, organizational charts, and management plan. The report included statements by the seven RIs, which also provided documented progress in critical areas for restructuring.

Summary of the HLC Visit

- Dr. Ralph Katerberg and Dr. Russ Hannah conducted the peer review
- The review focused on enrollment and future financial planning to sustain quality and compliance with HLC criteria at the branch campuses
- The reviewers recognized the hard work, high level of organization, thoroughness, and care that each institution has exhibited to accomplish the work of restructuring
- We discussed areas of challenge as well as areas of success. We acknowledged the current enrollment challenges, and the reviewers observed that these challenges are being embraced with proactive engagement at the institutions to monitor and plan for future enrollments.
- Institutions provided examples of how they are being strategic in financial planning while balancing the needs of students
- The RIs indicated the integration of faculty across the institutions varies depending on how the faculty are now organized in departments or colleges
- A great deal of time was dedicated to a discussion about how to provide appropriate and adequate student support services at the branch campuses. Representatives provided clear supporting examples of the types and amounts of services they are currently able to provide and identified specific services that are challenging to provide at current levels of support.

Next Update in January

The next HLC Report and Visit Update will be sent when HLC provides its report of findings and recommendations.

Previous HLC Report and Visit Updates

- November 29, 2018
- November 15, 2018
- November 1, 2018
- October 18, 2018
- October 11, 2018
- October 4, 2018
- September 27, 2018
- September 20, 2018