How We Spent Our Summer Vacation

The HLC team was busy over the summer break gathering information and compiling arguments to demonstrate institutional compliance with HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation. Our goal for the summer was to locate multiple forms of evidence for each criteria, core component, and subcomponent to use in the Assurance Argument (formerly known as the Institutional Self-Study).

The criterion teams, composed of dedicated individuals reflecting the nature, diversity, and complexity of our university, collected over 1300 pieces of evidence from every college and unit on campus. A significant achievement in itself, but that is just the beginning.

The HLC Leadership Team and criterion co-chairs spent weeks categorizing and sorting the collected material to create a searchable catalog of evidence. The catalog included basic information about the source material and, most importantly, concisely presented the most compelling arguments for why each piece of evidence demonstrated compliance with criteria components and subcomponents. This powerful tool allowed the leadership team and the co-chairs to quickly assess their options and to construct rationales for compliance. Last week, the co-chairs completed the first rough drafts of what will serve as the foundation of our Assurance Review. This milestone of achievement is directly attributable to the hard work of the co-chairs and the criterion teams—many of whom agreed to serve before they had any idea what kind of a time commitment would be involved. Special recognition is given to the co-chairs who worked tirelessly over the summer and through the first few weeks of the fall semester to make it all happen.

There is still much to be done in terms of vetting and refining the narrative that is taking shape but we’re on the right path and we have a solid foundation on which to build a powerful Assurance Argument. A project like this is an effort of many, and its success depends on all. #UMSLProud

Leadership Team Restructured

Strategic planning exercises at the campus and system level have resulted in the need to reallocate resources within the HLC Leadership Team. Paulette Isaac-Savage has been tasked with overseeing the strategic planning process for UMSL. To offset the time demands this created, Alan Heisel was asked to serve as the Accreditation Liaison Officer to HLC. Bonnie Unal has been named the Assurance Site Coordinator.

A New Logo for our Reaccreditation Effort

Thanks to Ron Gossen and Jackie Schlarman of Marketing and Communications at UMSL, the HLC team now has a new logo to help brand our messaging. Look for it in documents and promotional materials raising campus awareness about HLC.

Criterion Co-Chairs

Criterion 1. Paulette Isaac-Savage & Thomas H. Eyssell  
Criterion 2. Erika L. Gibb & Yolanda Weathersby  
Criterion 3. Keith Stine & Alan Heisel  
Criterion 4. James Craig, Michael D. Porterfield, & Shawn Woodhouse  
Criterion 5. Carol Sholy & Brian L. Speicher

November 5 & 6, 2018