

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 24, 2020

## Report No. 20.9/4 Update on Higher Learning Commission Accreditation

This notification briefly outlines the direction and planning for WIU's Reaffirmation of Accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission.

As mentioned in the last notification, in the spring of 2020 the work of the Social Responsibility Task Force as it related to the HLC Assurance Argument was handed to the Assurance Argument Writing Team. This team is composed of following individuals: Mark Mossman, Associate Provost; Lori Baker Sperry, Assessment Coordinator; Justin Schuch, Executive Director of Retention Services; Kristi Mindrup, Assistant Provost and Interim Administrator in Charge, Quad Cities Campus; Amy Patrick Mossman, Professor and Director of the University Writing Center; and Angela Bonifas, Director of Institutional Research.

This team has continued to draft the argument while working with five Working Groups to finalize evidence-based arguments in support of each criterion. These groups either have completed or are nearing the completion of their work.

After additional review by the writing team, the entire argument will be presented to a larger Review Committee in October.

The final draft of the assurance argument will be presented to the BOT for review in December 2020.

The writing of our reaffirmation assurance argument supports our larger strategic planning efforts.

In the drafting and preparation of reaffirmation documents it has become clear that student learning assessment, accreditation, and long-term strategic planning are deeply connected activities that will be better aligned in the coming months and years.

At present we are also working on a set of webpages to better organize all accreditation, assessment, and strategic planning initiatives. As such, I ask that you visit [http://www.wiu.edu/university\\_planning/accreditation/](http://www.wiu.edu/university_planning/accreditation/), which has been constructed for our continued work on accreditation and planning.