Accreditation and related issues
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HLC accreditation

- The Higher Learning Commission is the Regional Accreditation Organization authorized by the Dept of Education for our region
- Accreditation is on a ten-year cycle with the following:
  - Annual data update
  - Year 4 review – Assurance of compliance with criteria
  - Year 7 – Proposal for quality improvement initiative
  - Year 10 – Visit for comprehensive review + federal compliance
HLC Accreditation

- The next review is in 2018-19
- This is the Year 4 Assurance Review
- Remote review; no campus visit
- We need to update our Assurance Argument and Evidence Files on the HLC Assurance System
  - Narrative on how meet the accreditation criteria with evidence
Embedded monitoring

• Year 4 Review will include an emphasis on Assessment of Student Learning, including verification in the
  ◦ advancement of student learning in General Education,
  ◦ clarification of graduate level program assessment, and
  ◦ advancement in the assessment of co-curricular student learning.
Student learning Assessment

- Every degree program is expected to continue to
  - Gather assessment data/information
  - Analyze the information
  - Take actions, as needed, based on the results of the analysis

- “Continuous improvement” is the key
- Faculty engagement is key to making this meaningful for the program
Compliance and improvement

- Compliance:
  - The assessment cycle needs to be completed
    - Data gathering → Analysis → Using results
    - Documentation of what we do
  - We get to define outcomes and choose the processes for data collection and analysis in the context of making our programs better
  - Improvement: better outcomes for students
Need your help

- To keep this conversation active and alive in the department/school/college
- Documenting and monitoring progress (in WEAVE)
- We will need to be able to say in the Assurance Argument that all of our programs (all levels) are engaged in the full cycle of assessment
Instructor qualifications

- In 2016, at the urging of the Department of Education, HLC issued guidelines on minimum qualifications for instructors.
- Guidelines require:
  - A campus-level policy (a draft is under review)
  - Documentation of the process used in departments on implementation
  - Gathering of evidence (CV, transcripts, etc. of instructors)
Verification methods

- Use of credentials
  - Degrees
  - Scholarship/research records

- Tested experience
Minimum Qualifications by Credentials

- **Graduate programs**
  - Terminal degree determined by the discipline
  - Scholarship record appropriate to the degree offered

- **Undergraduate programs**
  - Master's degree or higher in the discipline or program area
Alternative Qualifications

- Tested experience
  - Graduate level academic course work (>18 credits) in program area
  - Practical experience outside academia
  - Clinical experience
  - Language fluency