Higher Learning Commission (HLC) 
Comprehensive Reaccreditation 
November 5 & 6 Site Visit 
Criterion 5 Open Forums

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Assurance Argument

- Assurance Argument Lock Down: October 8
- Purpose: Describe and document how CCC meets the Criteria for Accreditation
  1. Mission
  2. Integrity
  3. Teaching and Learning: Resources and Support
  4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
  5. Resources and Planning
- “Argument”
- Evidence Files
Site Visit: Logistics

• Team Visit: November 5 and 6
• Seven Peer Reviewers (also 3 HLC Staff Observers)
• Prior to Visit (October): Read Assurance Argument and Evidence Files, Draft Schedule
• Visit: Meet with stakeholders across campus
• Post-Visit: Write report with judgement:
  • Met
  • Met with concerns
  • Not met
Schedule (most likely)

- President and Cabinet
- Board of Trustees
- Provost and Deans
- Vice-Presidents
- Faculty (FT and PT separately)
- Assessment Committee
- Campus Tour/Facilities
- Open Forums on Criteria
- “Areas of Focus”
Schedule (also possible)

• Students
• Faculty Senate
• Chairs
• Advising and Student Support
• Enrollment Management
• Career Center
• Institutional Effectiveness
Criterion 5: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness (5.A)

• Do you have the resources (fiscal, human, physical, technological) to support operations?
• Is your staff appropriately qualified and trained?
• Do you have a well-developed process for budgeting and monitoring expenses?
Criterion 5: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness (5.A)

Evidence:

• S&P Bond Rating: BBB+/‘stable’ outlook

• Long-Term Investments (‘endowment’): $200.7m (+69.7% since 2013)

• Physical plant: Four buildings sold to fully fund student center project, Getz Theatre renovation

• Information Technology: Upgraded network, financial management software, Canvas LMS
Criterion 5: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness (5.A)

Evidence (cont.):

- Healthy cash flow
- Low debt service burden
- Significant improvements in College’s capacity for effective budgeting, budget management, and long-term planning
- Area of concern: lack of consistently strong fundraising record
Criterion 5: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness (5.B)

- Does your Board of Trustees meet its legal and fiduciary responsibilities?
- Do you have policies and procedures to engage internal constituencies – Board, administration, faculty, staff, students – in governance and in setting academic policies?
Criterion 5: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness (5.B)

Evidence:

• Board of Trustees’ purview: budgets, tuition, capital projects
• Faculty Senate: academics, faculty affairs, and finance
• President’s Cabinet: VPs, Deans, Administration
• Student Government Association
Criterion 5: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness (5.C)

- Do you allocate resources in support of your mission?
- Do you link planning, budgeting, operations, and student learning?
- Does your planning allow for unanticipated fluctuations in enrollment, the economy, and government support?
- Does your planning anticipate emerging factors (technology, demographic shifts, globalization)?
Criterion 5: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness (5.C)

Evidence:

• Recent planning history: Focus 2016: Blueprint for Action/“Prioritization” (2010-2013); Achieving Our Greatness (2015-2020)
• Strategic Plan initiative funding (FY17, FY18)
• Enrollment management plan
• Physical plant assessment (2014)
• Columbia College Chicago Online
Criterion 5: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness (5.D)

• Do your units document evidence of performance in operations?

• Are you responsive to your operational experience and work towards improvement?
Criterion 5: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness (5.D)

Evidence:

• Evolution of admissions operations to serve ‘generous’ admissions institution

• Office of Institutional Effectiveness: Fact Book, Key Performance Indicators, Interactive Reporting Tools

• Student Financial Services: degree completion grants and other policies to support persistence; new payment plans; improved technology

• College Advising Center, Career Center

• Improved degree audit function (4-year grad rate up from 26.6% in spring 2008 to 41.2% in spring 2017)
Notable Evidence:

Change in 4, 5 and 6 year Grad Rates 2003-2013 (Entering Cohorts)
Comments, Observations, Questions?

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