

## HLC Assurance Argument Executive Summary

In preparation for on-site peer review visit, we are presenting each of the five criteria upon which we are evaluated along with a summary of our Assurance Review findings.

### **Criterion 1. Mission:**

*The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.*

#### What we do well/Strengths:

- We affirm our mission as an institution of opportunity through the activities and programs that support our diverse community.
- We have made substantial investment in renovation of educational facilities consistent with our mission commitment to foster an environment that provides our students the relevant skills needed to succeed in their chosen field.
- Increased financial aid for low-income students.
- Articulated the role of Engage@EMU as a single point of contact for community partners focused on increasing meaningful community engagement.
- Host the Undergraduate Symposium, Graduate Research Fair and other Learning Beyond the Classroom experiences which highlight our dedication to providing students with an intellectually dynamic education and valuable applied learning opportunities.

#### Recognition of Opportunities for Improvement

- Our year-to-year retention rates continue to warrant attention and improvement;
- Our graduation rate has not increased over time in ways we would like to see.

*For more information on Criterion 1, please contact Team Leader Decky Alexander, Faculty, CMTA*

### **Criterion 2. Integrity, Ethical and Responsible Conduct**

*The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible*

Note: This criterion includes institutional commitments

#### What we do well/Strengths:

- University policies and procedures are transparent, accessible, and clearly articulated to its constituents through the Board Policy Manual, Student Code of Conduct, employment contracts and various websites.
- The University provides numerous, accessible pathways for reporting compliance issues and raising and resolving academic and non-academic concerns and breaches of conduct.
- Required compliance training for all employees in the areas of ethical and responsible conduct.

Recognition of Opportunities for Improvement:

- University has not adhered to the three-year Board of Regents policy review cycle
- Continue to improve effectiveness of communications

*For more information on Criterion 2, please contact Team Leader Chiara Hensley, Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs*

**Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support**

*The institution provides high quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.*

What we do well/Strengths:

- Rigorous and consistent course and program approval process that provides for substantial faculty input regarding all curricular modifications.
- General Education program is based on student learning outcomes essential for college graduates and is well aligned with the stated mission of the institution.
- Exceptional academic support services through the Holman Success Center
- Provide significant, meaningful opportunities for undergraduate research

Recognition of Opportunities for Improvement:

- Given the University's new Carnegie Classification, there exists a potential opportunity to increase faculty research and external research award funding.

*For more information on Criterion 3, please contact Team Leaders Caryn Charter, ORDA; or Peggy Liggitt, FDC*

**Criterion 4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement**

*The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments, and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.*

What we do well/Strengths:

- Nearly 100 faculty participate on assessment committees and councils, with additional faculty serving as knowledge leaders in their respective departments and schools.
- Increased assessment of General Education program is underway.
- Robust assessment of co-curricular activities through Student Affairs and Student Success Assessment Council.

Recognition of Opportunities for Improvement:

- Refinement of goals in the Degree Completion and Retention Plan (DCR)
- Additional resources may be needed to fully implement the DCR, HLC Quality Initiative on Advising, BrotherHOOD and SisterHOOD initiatives for students of color, and Gateways to Completion project.

*For more information on Criterion 4, please contact Team Leaders Doug Baker, Faculty, English; or Ellen Gold, Student Affairs.*

**Criterion 5. Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness**

*The institution's resources, structures, and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities. The institution plans for the future.*

What we do well/Strengths:

- \$230 million capital improvement project to renovate the Science Complex and improvements to facilities for health-related and Honors programs.
- Increased faculty release time to support assessment of student learning.
- Numbers of instructional staff maintained despite declines in credit hour production.
- University's commitment to tuition restraint and increase in financial aid for students

Recognition of Opportunities for Improvement:

- Enhance online course offerings
- Increase outreach to international students and out-of-state students.
- Refine enrollment model to provide adequate budgeting forecasting
- Right-size academic programs

*For more information on Criterion 5, please contact Team Leaders Todd Ohmer, Budget; or Jim Carroll, Academic Affairs.*