

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the adoption of the Open Pathway process for institutional accreditation from The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). The University would be moving from the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) process to The Open Pathway process for documenting actions and success in meeting institutional criteria for accreditation.

**SUMMARY**

HLC is an independent corporation and one of two commission members of the NCA, which is one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. The Higher Learning Commission accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the North Central region of which Eastern Michigan University is a part.

The Commission currently offers two programs for maintaining accreditation: the Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality (PEAQ) and the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP). In September 2012, the Commission begins a three-year transition during which PEAQ will be replaced by two new Pathway options. Universities will be asked to select or re-affirm their process choice.

The Open Pathway process best suits EMU's institutional profile and our commitment to continued quality improvement.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no fiscal implications as a result of this transition.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.

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University Executive Officer  
Provost and Vice President

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Date