

Lawrence Technological University

Accreditation Matters VOL. III - January 2009

HLC Criterion 2 of 5 Preparing for the Future:

The organization's allocation of resources and its processes for evaluation and planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

2a. The organization realistically prepares for a future shaped by multiple societal and economic trends.

2b. The organization's resource base supports its educational programs and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future.

2c. The organization's ongoing evaluation and assessment processes provide reliable evidence of institutional effectiveness that clearly informs strategies for continuous improvement.

2d. All levels of planning align with the organization's mission, thereby enhancing its capacity to fulfill that mission.

What Everyone Should Know:

- HLC Accreditation Criterion Two
- Lawrence Tech's Strategic Planning Process
- Self-Study Timeline

Purpose of this Newsletter

This newsletter informs the campus community about Lawrence Tech's upcoming institutional accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, scheduled for late 2010 or early 2011. The institutional self-study, which helps us prepare for the accreditation visit, is an extensive process of self-study and reflection. This newsletter – which will be issued in January, May, and September of each year leading up to the 2010-2011 accreditation visit – provides information to the campus community about the accreditation process, the activities across the institution in support of the process, and about how you can contribute to the process.

Lawrence Tech's Strategic Planning Process

Lawrence Tech has developed a comprehensive Strategic Planning process to guide the advancement of the University. The Strategic Planning process uses a five-year planning window with two-year rolling updates. The current Strategic Plan, issued in 2007, is available online at www.ltu.edu/presidents_office/strategic_plan.asp

The Strategic Planning process was initiated in 1998 as part of the feasibility planning for the UTLC building. A strategic planning leadership group was formed in early 1999 to monitor progress against the plan. Plan updates were issued in 2001, 2003, 2005, and 2007.

The current Strategic Plan was driven by the vision and active leadership of President Lewis Walker, and was developed with the participation by nearly 200 faculty, staff, administrators, and members of the Board of Trustees.

The Strategic Plan focuses on five key areas of concern: People; Programs; Positioning, Support, and Partnerships; Physical Environment and Infrastructure; and Financial Integrity and Growth. For each of these areas, the Strategic Plan defines several strategic objectives, associated tactical initiatives to achieve the strategic objectives, and metrics to monitor progress. Tactical initiatives include a timeline, primary area(s) of responsibility, and support needed. Progress against the plan is monitored by a Strategic Planning leadership team chaired by Trustee Howard Padgem. The Strategic Plan is actively linked to other University planning processes including budgeting, campus master plan, capital campaign, enrollment plan, and technology plan.

Lawrence Tech’s Strategic Planning process directly responds to the Higher Learning Commission’s accreditation criterion 2, which calls on the institution to allocate resources and processes to “demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.”

Self-Study Timeline

The Self-Study Steering Committee meets every two weeks during the academic year to lead the self-study effort. Here is a review of the timeline used by the Committee:

2008-2009

- Self-Study Data Design and Evidence Gathering plan
- Interviews with Vice Presidents, Deans, and Administrative Offices
- Campus Briefings

2009-2010

- Self-Study Detailed Data Gathering
- Report Writing

2010-2011

- Report Publication (August 2010)
- Higher Learning Commission Site Visit (tentatively scheduled for October 2010)

Self-Study Principles

As the Self-Study Steering Committee develops the self-study project plan, members will focus on these priorities:

1. To gather evidence of the alignment of Lawrence Tech’s mission with institutional and educational outcomes. This evidence supports the “Assurance Section” of the HLC report.
2. To gather evidence that Lawrence Tech is organized, governed, and resourced to sustain its mission into the future. This evidence supports the “Advancement Section” of the HLC report.
3. To gather evidence that demonstrates linkages between long-term initiatives, student learning outcomes, and operations.
4. To actively engage the entire Lawrence Tech community in the accreditation process, and to learn from the self-study process.

Self-Study Steering Committee:

Lawrence Tech has established a Self-Study Steering Committee to prepare our self-study report that will be sent to the members of the visiting team and to the HLC in December 2010. The self-study report is very comprehensive and gives the visiting team a real picture of who we are and how we are fulfilling our mission. The members of the Self-Study Steering Committee are:

Dr. Patty Castelli
College of Management

Prof. Lew Frasch
College of Engineering

Dr. Dale Gyure
College of Architecture & Design

Dr. Steve Howell
Associate Provost and
Dean of Graduate Studies

Dr. Alan McCord
College of Management and LTU Online
Steering Committee Chair

Dr. Valentina Tobos
College of Arts & Sciences