Spring 2014 HLC Accomplishments

1. The Quality Initiative was approved by the Higher Learning Commission and the sub-committee in charge of the Quality Initiative has begun meeting with APC to ensure that the project successfully moves forward.

2. A kick-off and training meeting was held with the members of the 5 criteria teams at the beginning of the semester. The criteria teams have been meeting throughout the semester to identify the type of data/reports that need to be collected as evidence files for each criteria. Each criterion team chair has reported back to the steering committee with the status of their work on identifying the evidence files. This information will be reviewed in detail by the steering committee in the summer.

3. Two open sessions were held for faculty, staff, students, and community members to update everyone on the accreditation process. While they were sparsely attended, there was good conversation with the participants about the process. We need to identify methods for encouraging attendance at these open sessions.

4. There were individual meetings held with senior leadership, academic affairs, all senates, APC, colleges, individual departments, divisions, and units across campus to update them on the accreditation process (a complete list is available on our website). The only group that did not respond to getting a time set up for the updates was athletics. These meetings will continue each semester.

5. A press release about the accreditation process was published on January 23.

6. Several members of the steering committee attended the HLC annual conference and brought back a variety of updates and suggestions on the various aspects of the new accreditation process. An initial discussion was held at the steering committee level. Additional discussion about next steps we need to take with this information will be completed in the summer.

7. Based on increased awareness of federal compliance in general and specific issues highlighted by the HLC, a team was identified to address the federal compliance issues that need be submitted as part of the accreditation process. This team will work to identify evidence needed to document federal compliance review and will be responsible for crafting the document required for our review.

8. The HLC Executive Committee met bi-monthly to discuss a variety of administrative issues associated with the accreditation process and to address activities for keeping people engaged and completing tasks in a timely manner.
9. The steering committee reviewed the HLC report from the last visit and developed a report on how we have addressed the issues that were identified as weaknesses, along with work that still needs to be done in this area. In addition, we identified new issues that we believe need to be addressed prior to the new accreditation visit and identified resources that we will need to resolve these issues. This information will be submitted to the Senior Leadership Team for review and a progress report on this topic will be submitted each semester.

10. The steering committee sponsored a presentation by Susan Hatfield on “Writing Good Student Learning Outcomes”. This presentation was made available at an academic leadership team meeting. The session was taped and has been made available for campus faculty to review.