

UAM 2024-25 Ten-Year HLC Comprehensive Visit Work of the Steering Committee

As UAM prepares for the 2024-25 Comprehensive Visit by a team from HLC, our work is led by the Accreditation Steering Committee, including:

Ms. Crystal Halley
Dr. Donna Hunnicutt
Ms. Dorissa Kaufman
Ms. Shanna Knowles

Mr. Frank Porto
Dr. Anita Shaw
Mr. Mark Spencer
Mr. Dan Boice

Meetings of the Steering Committee and our deliberations, decisions, and actions thus far are summarized below. Any member of the Steering Committee can provide more information and will be glad for suggestions and, especially, offers of help!

August 29, 2022:

Introductions

Discussed the Ten-Year Process

Went over our basic resources:

1. Criteria for Accreditation
2. Assumed Practices
3. Federal Compliance
4. 2019 Report of the HLC Visitors for our Four-Year Assurance Review
5. Current draft of our Assurance Argument: it will need rewriting, but it's something to work from.

Dan will check into any reported trends vis-à-vis which criteria draw the most negative ratings during HLC evaluations.

Dan and Donna will meet with Anissa Ross about setting up a Teams Folder for our Evidence File and other documents.

For the next meeting, members will review the 2019 Team Report, noting all suggestions. We will discuss this at our next meeting, in order to see which suggestions may still need attention. There were distinct whiffs of mutiny when Dan suggested the next meeting be on Monday, September 5th. In a display of “discretion the better part of valor,” Boice caved, and the next meeting will be Monday, September 19th.

September 19, 2022:

The Committee studied the report of the HLC Visiting Team from the summer of 2019, noting the suggestions of the team and how or if UAM had responded to them, as well as sketching out future work for each.

October 10, 2022:

1. Dates for 2024-25 Visit: Dan reported that the HLC had asked us to rank dates – two in the Fall semester and two in the Spring semester – for the team visit, which we had done and sent back. We should know the schedule by the end of November.

The team will arrive on a Sunday, and be on campus all day Monday and Tuesday morning. They will confer on Tuesday afternoon, and will depart Monticello on Wednesday.

2. Responses to the 2019 Visit:

The team reviewed responses to the recommendations of the 2019 team, and noted progress in addressing them.

3. Assurance Argument:

The team discussed organization of the writing of the Assurance Argument, noting that the 2019 Argument can serve as a draft.

Dan will try to ascertain how assigning/requesting chairs for task forces for specific criteria was handled ten years ago and her thoughts on the success of that method. Some individuals might appreciate having a co-chair, so we should keep that option in mind.

We discussed specific names for working on specific criteria. Some criteria will require more work than others, and so we will need to draft enough people to avoid overburdening individuals.

4. Keeping the Community Apprised of our Work

The Team discussed the critical importance of making keeping the UAM Community aware of our work. Since there is already an Accreditation webpage on the UAM website, Dan will post reports and updates there.

Meeting of August 28, 2023

Updates:

1. The five Criterion Task Force chairs have begun writing their chapters of the Assurance Argument in the HLC portal.

We have received responses from virtually every school and department, detailing updates to what we reported in the 2019 Argument.

2. Evidence Coordinator: Bethany Wornick has begun collecting, formatting, and filing evidence. Bethany spoke about some challenges of organizing and linking, and reported that she is getting more comfortable with the project.

3. HLC Staff Liaison Dr. Linnea Stenson will be visiting campus in September. She will be talking to Administration, to those working on the project, and talking to the community, too.
4. Dan reviewed findings on what Core Components are proving the most troublesome for HLC Assurance Reviews
5. Ms. Halley and Messrs. Porto and Boice will be going up to Chicago in April for the HLC Conference.
6. Task Forces: Membership list is attached.

New Business:

Publicity: We really need to improve our publicity of the upcoming visit, including what HLC is. Making the community more cognizant of our vision and mission statements would be good, too, and the group discussed some ideas on that. Perhaps some sessions during Professional Development Week, rack cards, or even banners might be helpful. We can all be thinking about upping our game.

5. Next Meeting: **April 22nd at 2:00**

The revised list of HLC Criteria Task Forces is as follows:

Criterion One

Brian Hairston (Chair)
 Michael Alexander
 Landon Grimes
 Renea McClendon
 Tiffany Osborne

Criterion Two

Jennifer Miller (Chair)
 Keith Chambliss
 Sydney Gavin-Herron
 Debbie Gasaway
 Thomas Lafever
 Sage Loyd
 Catie Lusby

Criterion Three

Bryan Fendley (Chair)
 Colleen Hammock
 Brian Jones
 Dawn Reed

Lori Selby

Criterion Four

Mark Spencer (Co-Chair)
 Carrie Johnson (Co-Chair)
 Rob Ficklin
 Elaine Hargraves
 Judy Hubbell
 Dylan McLain
 Carole Martin

Criterion Five

Dan Boice (Co-Chair)
 Frank Porto (Co-Chair)
 Lonni Davis
 Jessica Foxworth
 Roxanne Smith

Federal Compliance

Brad Fuller
 Frank Porto

