January 13, 2013

Background

At last week's meeting of the NCA Accreditation Advisory Committee, it was noted that IIT's conversation with HLC has occurred at multiple levels.

In 2011, we had the opportunity to visit with Andrew Lootens-White, who is the VP for Accreditation Relations at HLC. At that meeting, we obtained insights about the proposed open pathway process to accreditation. Three members of the NCA Accreditation Advisory Committee attended the annual HLC Conference at Chicago in 2012. We plan to have three IIT faculty attend the conference again this year. These conferences have been very helpful to us in terms of learning from the experiences of the "Pioneer" schools that are currently pursuing the NCA accreditation process under the new HLC criteria/standards (a copy of the HLC criteria document is attached). So members of our committee were delighted to learn that President Anderson will have the opportunity to meet Sylvia Manning (President of HLC) next week. This appears a great opportunity for us to engage HLC at the highest levels and to learn and better prepare for the NCA accreditation visit in 2016.

Suggested discussion questions

Three thoughts/discussion questions for President Anderson's meeting suggested by our committee follow:

(a) What is the ideal composition of the NCA team that visits our campus in 2016? (A list of members from the last visit is in the attached document for your review).

(b) We are launching an update of our University's Strategic Plan and working to integrate this plan into our preparation for NCA accreditation. How can this process be improved from experiences of other "Pioneer" universities undergoing NCA accreditation?

(c) The university conducts college/school-level reviews periodically that includes elements of a 'self-study' process. Some of our schools also undergo periodic accreditation reviews. From the HLC perspective, what approaches will help us integrate such reviews into our preparation for NCA accreditation visit?

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