

University Accreditation Committee – Meeting Notes – April 27 2016

This meeting provided an opportunity for all members to visit with Sunil Ahuja, VP for Accreditation Relations at the Higher Learning Commission.

Sunil clarified the following points:

- a. The HLC Team visit to IIT campuses will occur during September 26-27, 2016. The team will arrive on Sunday, September 25, and will spend all day on Monday, September 26, and one half day on Tuesday, September 27.
- b. Siva Balasubramanian and the Team Chair will coordinate and manage logistics (including recommending hotel locations etc). The team is likely to have 7 to 9 members, representing institutions roughly similar to Illinois Tech, with programs at undergraduate/masters/doctoral levels.
- c. On September 26, the team will meet with the University Accreditation Committee, and separate meetings with faculty (either with the UFC or a general meeting), with students and with staff. In addition, they will have separate meetings with Chairs/Directors, Deans, Provost, President, members of the Board of Trustees (Chair and key members – could be a lunch meeting). Finally, the team may wish to meet with some School/College advisory boards, and meet with community representatives. The latter could include a social reception for the team on Sunday evening.
The Team should be given a Federal Compliance Report about a week prior to the visit date. The team chair and the chair of the University Accreditation Committee will discuss and decide whether the team will visit other campuses besides the Mies Campus.
- d. On September 27, the team will meet in a joint session with the President, Provost and the chair of the University Accreditation Committee. This meeting will not convey the recommendations of the team, but may convey impressions during the visit. The team has four weeks after the visit to Illinois Tech to complete its draft report, and Illinois Tech will have the opportunity to review and correct any errors in that draft. About four months later, the Institutional Action Council of the Higher Learning Commission will review the report. It is expected that the report will be finalized around December 2016/January 2017, resulting in a letter from HLC to Illinois Tech reaffirming the accreditation for 10 years, with a mid-cycle review after 5 years.
- e. Sunil responded to several specific questions from committee members about the outcomes that are possible following the HLC team visit. It is expected that HLC will ask us to continue on the Open Pathway if everything goes well. Other options available to HLC (if things do not go as well as expected) include: asking for focused visits (in which case, we cannot remain in the Open Pathway), or may ask that we change to Standard Pathway (an outcome that is likely if there are sanctions that follow the team visit).
- f. Sunil requested that Illinois Tech conduct a survey of our students using a survey designed and managed by HLC. Sunil also requested that Illinois Tech should provide clarification about its campus locations. Both these steps have been completed subsequently to the satisfaction of HLC.

Siva Balasubramanian
Chair, University Accreditation Committee