WSU Assessment Activities - Update

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Noteworthy Items

- New requirements (e.g., from HLC, KBOR) forcing the University to reorganize the reporting of assessment data
- Program assessment (Program review)
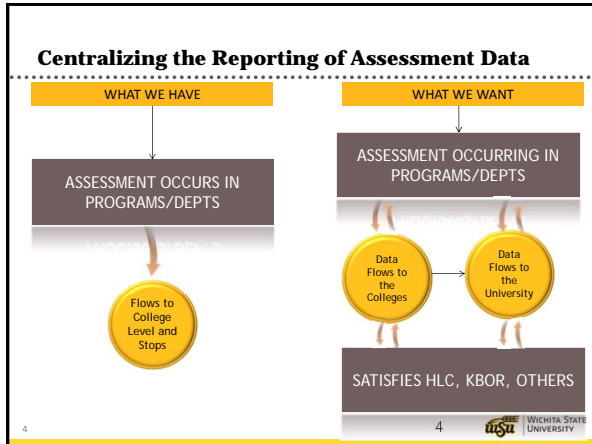- Foresight 2020
- Higher learning commission

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Reorganizing Reporting of Assessment Data

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Centralizing the Reporting of Assessment Data

| WHAT WE HAVE | WHAT WE WANT |

ASSESSMENT OCCURS IN PROGRAMS/DEPTS

ASSESSMENT OCCURRING IN PROGRAMS/DEPTS

Flows to College Level and Stops

Data Flows to the Colleges

Data Flows to the University

SATISFIES HLC, KBOR, OTHERS

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Program Review

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Program Assessment (Program Review)

- New process
  - 3-year report requirement: will take the place of annual assessment and KBOR self-study reports.
    - Uses a standard template for all programs.
  - Trade-off: no longer annual assessment report required.
  - 3-year reports used for 8 year KBOR program review report (**a separate KBOR self-study will not be required**).
  - Departments will cycle into the new process on a staggered timeline and file reports every 3 years thereafter.
  - Instructions/forms on the Academic Affairs Website.
    - http://wichita.edu/assessment
    - Click on Process for Program Review
  - To assist programs in data collection: UG exit survey implemented FL 2011; alumni survey will be implemented in 2012.

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**Foresight 2020
(KBOR Initiative)**

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Foresight 2020 (KBOR Initiative)

- In September 2010, the Kansas Board of Regents approved a 10-year strategic agenda for the state's public higher education system.

- Entitled Foresight 2020, the plan sets long-range achievement goals that are measurable, reportable, and ensures the state's higher education system meets Kansans' expectations.

- We're working to measure our progress in terms of the Foresight 2020 strategic goals and objectives (through use of dashboards)
  - WSU's performance agreements include some of the initiatives targeted for this purpose.

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Foresight 2020 (KBOR Initiative)

Foresight 2020 includes six strategic goals:

- Achieve alignment between the state's preK-12 and higher education systems and continue to enhance alignment between higher education institutions.

- Achieve participation in the state's higher education system that better reflects the state's demography and more fully engages adult learners.

- Achieve measureable improvement in persistence (retention) and completion (graduation) rates for higher education institutions across the state.

- Ensure that students earning credentials and degrees across the higher education system possess the foundational skills essential for success in work and in life.

- Enhance alignment between the work of the state's higher education system and the needs of the Kansas economy.

- Enhance the regional and national reputation of Kansas universities through aspirational initiatives.

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Higher Learning Commission Changes

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Higher Learning Commission – New Accreditation Process

- The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) proposes a new model for continued accreditation.

- Called the "Open Pathway", it seeks to offer greater value to institutions through its reaffirmation process for continued accreditation and greater credibility to the public in its quality assurance.

- WSU will transition into this model during the 2012-2013 academic year as required for our accreditation reaffirmation in 2016-2017.

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Higher Learning Commission – New Accreditation Process (Continued)

The new model separates the continued accreditation process as currently carried out through PEAQ into two components:

- **Assurance Process:** Annual Institution Data Update and an Assurance Narrative that makes the case that the institution continues to meet the Criteria for Accreditation and the federal requirements.

- **Improvement Process:** The Improvement Process will focus on institutional improvement. The process will replace the traditional self-study with a "pathway," a Quality Initiative the institution will undertake as something it elects to do for substantial institutional improvement.

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HLC Planning – To Date

- Have established:
  - Work Group
  - Timeline for work
  - Website
    (http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=wsuhlc&p=/IndexInUse
- Now working on possibilities for a quality improvement project

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HLC Pathways

The Commission's New
Accrediting Model

Goals

- Enhance value and flexibility for institutions
- Reduce reporting burden
- Enhance rigor
- Integrate other HLC processes and data requirements
- Make as cost efficient as possible
- Increase credibility, value, relevance, and transparency of accreditation

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Four Pathways

- Candidacy Pathway
- Standard Pathway
- AQIP Pathway
- Open Pathway

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Open Pathway

FOCUS

Quality Improvement

ACCREDITATION

SPLIT

Quality Assurance

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Open Pathway

Improvement Process

Quality Improvement

Assurance Process

Quality Assurance

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What It Looks Like..........

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Assurance Process	Institution may contribute documents to Evidence File			Assurance Argument Filed	Institution may contribute documents to Evidence File					Assurance Argument Filed
				Assurance Review (no visit)						Assurance Review (with visit)

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Open Pathway
Assurance Process

- Evidence File (uploaded materials)
- Assurance Argument (the narrative)
- Peer Review Process
- HLC's Technology System – to store files

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How will this work?

- Web-based technology developed and maintained by Commission—(think course management system)
- System allows for ongoing storage of information and timed access for:
  - ➤ Commission
  - ➤ Institution
  - ➤ Peer Reviewers

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Assurance Argument

- Approximately 25,000 words, no more than 35,000 ("legal brief")
- Organized by Criteria and Core Components
- Not what you remember as self-study or self-study process
- Highly structured format
- Maintained online (updated versus redone) in HLC's technology systems
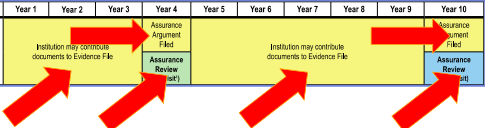
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Assurance Argument

- For each criterion, institution offers:
  - Criterion introduction
  - An articulation of how each Core Component within each Criterion is met: *(how and why it is met, room for improvement, constraints, threats to maintain it, opportunities, future plans)*
  - Links to evidence in materials in Evidence File
  - A Criterion Summary

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Open Pathway Assurance Process

1. Institution uploads evidence throughout, links it to Criteria and Federal requirements.
2. Institution analyzes evidence; writes or updates Assurance Argument.
3. Two Assurance Reviews: Year 4 (w/o visit) to identify issues proactively, Year 10 (w/visit)

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Open Pathway

Improvement Process

Quality Improvement

Assurance Process

Quality Assurance

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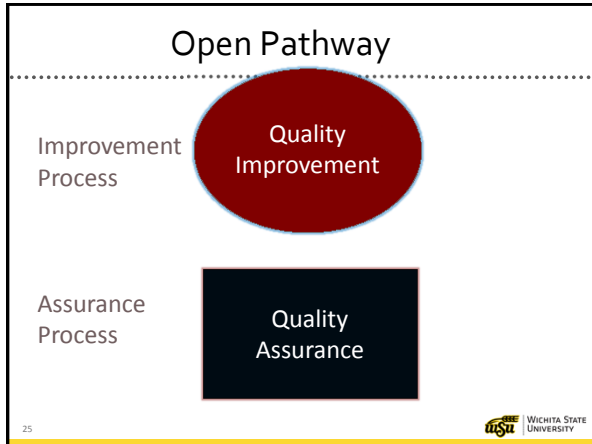
Open Pathway: Improvement Process (Flexible Timeframe)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Improvement Process					Quality Initiative Proposal Filed (window of opportunity to submit)					
					Quality Initiative Proposal Reviewed?					
							Quality Initiative Report Filed			
							Quality Initiative Report Review			

1. Consists of a Quality Initiative with appropriate scope, significance, clear outcomes, evidence of commitment and capacity, realistic timeline

2. Conducted anytime between years 5 and 9; may draw on Year 4 Assurance Review

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Improvement Process

Quality Initiative Proposal

Two variations

1. Institution chooses (designs own or selects from a menu of topics)

2. Institution joins Commission-facilitated program, such as the Assessment Academy
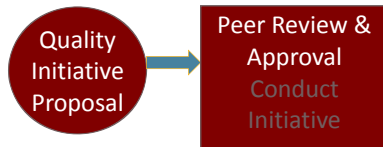
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Possibilities

- Collaborative initiatives, shared topics
- Statewide or system endeavors
- Agency-linked ideas (AAC&U)
- Optional electronic network, publishing and sharing information on initiatives
- Joint research, comparative data, post-graduation, longitudinal endeavors
- Full initiatives or key segments of larger initiatives

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Improvement Process

Quality Initiative Proposal → **Peer Review & Approval** Conduct Initiative

1. Peer review and approval via team-based forum or "paper" review (scope, goals, timeline, resources)
2. Institution conducts initiative
3. Option to revise, even change initiative midstream if appropriate

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Improvement Process (by year nine)

Quality Initiative Proposal → **Peer Review & Approval** Conduct Initiative → **Quality Initiative Report**

1. Report matches proposal; captures results, learning, impact, next steps (25-30 pages, template)
2. Peer reviewers offer consultation; evaluate solely on good faith effort

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Good Faith Effort

- Seriousness of undertaking
- Significance: scope and impact of work
- Genuine commitment and sustained engagement
- Adequate resource provision

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HLC Goals for QI Project

- Take risks
- Aim high
- Learn from success or failure
- Strive for significant impact
- Sincere, good faith effort
- Institutions may publicize results

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Commission Action

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Assurance Process	Institution may contribute documents to Evidence File			Assurance Argument Filed	Institution may contribute documents to Evidence File					Assurance Argument Filed
				Assurance Review (no visit)						Assurance Review (with visit)
Improvement Process					Quality Initiative Proposal Filed (window of opportunity to submit)					
					Quality Initiative Proposal Reviewed					
							Quality Initiative Report Filed			
							Quality Initiative Report Review			
Commission Action				Review Accepted by IAC with or without monitoring	Action may occur as needed with year four assurance review (substantive change, monitoring, etc.).					

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Commission Action

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Assurance Process	Institution may contribute documents to Evidence File			Assurance Argument Filed	Institution may contribute documents to Evidence File					Assurance Argument Filed
				Assurance Review (no visit)						Assurance Review (with visit)
Improvement Process					Quality Initiative Proposal Filed (window of opportunity to submit)					
					Quality Initiative Proposal Reviewed²					
							Quality Initiative Report Filed			
							Quality Initiative Report Review			
Commission Action				Review Accepted by IAC with or without monitoring						Action to Reaffirm Accreditation with or without monitoring

Review of substantive change requests, additional locations, financial and non-financial indicators, and monitoring occurs throughout as needed.

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Questions?

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