

AGENDA ITEM: C.2.b.3.

AGENDA TOPIC: Higher Learning Commission Update

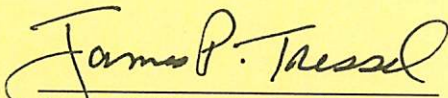
STAFF CONTACT(S): Dr. Kevin Ball, Associate Provost

BACKGROUND: Youngstown State University will undergo the university accreditation review by the Higher Learning Commission in 2017-2018. In preparation for the site visit, the university must begin planning for this external undertaking.

SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: An initial report on the planning phase for the accreditation review is attached.

RESOLUTION: N/A – DISCUSSION ITEM ONLY

REVIEWED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James P. Tressel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

James P. Tressel, President

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION UPDATE

YSU selected the Open Pathway for reaffirmation of accreditation.

The **Open Pathway** operates on 10-year cycle and offers more flexibility, fewer comprehensive evaluations, fewer site visits, and less monitoring than the other pathways. The next reaffirmation of accreditation visit will occur in **2017-18**.

The Open Pathway requires an institution to designate one major improvement effort it has undertaken as its **Quality Initiative** for reaffirmation of accreditation. YSU's Quality Initiative focuses on efforts across campus to increase student retention.

Progress and Timelines:

- Spring 2015—Identify Steering Committee
 - Suggested Member: Carol Weimer, Chairperson, Board of Trustees
- Fall 2015—Individual Criterion Committees Begin Work
 - Criterion I (Mission): Carol Weimer
 - Criterion II (Ethical and Responsible Conduct): Len Schiavone
 - Criterion III (Teaching and Learning): Student Trustee
 - Criterion IV (Teaching and Learning): Student Trustee
 - Criterion V (Resources, Planning, Inst. Effectiveness): Ted Roberts
- April 15-19, 2016—Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference
 - Program for Presidents and Trustees of Affiliated Institutions (Sunday, April 17)
 - Provosts are encouraged to attend general conference sessions.

Art Contest Winner

The Higher Learning Commission is pleased to announce that Robert J. Thompson, a professor of graphic design at Youngstown State University, is the winner of the 2016 Annual Conference Art Contest. Mr. Thompson's artwork was selected among 214 entries to be the design for HLC's 2016 Annual Conference. It represents the Conference theme of "Beyond the Horizon," with HLC and its member institutions depicted as hot air balloons heading toward the horizon. HLC congratulates Mr. Thompson and thanks all the artists who participated in the contest.



Progress on Quality Initiative

- **Academic Advising**

Objective: “Align Systems of Advising”

- Collection of updated four-year curriculum plans for every YSU academic program (Spring 2015)
- Continued efforts to standardize all curriculum sheets available to students as YSU moves to a new eBulletin

- **Student Success and Student Engagement:**

- Creation of an upper administrative position overseeing enrollment
- Creation of an upper administrative position overseeing retention and student success
- Continued utilization and implementation of the Starfish Retention System
- Fine-tuning and revision of YSU’s conditional admission system

- **Associate Degree and Technical Preparation Programs**

- Training in academic “coaching” model for advising students