

Institution's Response to the Concerns Raised by the Commission

(Included in the Introduction of the HLC Self-Study Report, p. 5)

In the abbreviated self-study report that follows, we have addressed the various concerns raised in the 2008 HLC Report (Appendix A3: HLC Report 2008). In the table below, we present an overview of the key changes implemented in response to HLC's concerns.

HLC's Concern	UWSP's Response
<p>(1) Program Assessment efforts were "uneven" and campus culture did not embrace assessment as an important campus-wide initiative.</p>	<p>(1) Initiated a fundamental revision of program assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visited each department, identified needs, made recommendations; • designed a series of workshops responding to identified needs and to support a comprehensive revision to program assessment (Assessment Academy); • required all departments to submit Program Learning Outcomes, Curriculum Maps, and Assessment Plans; • revised UWSP Handbook to reflect new approach to assessment.
<p>(2) The General Degree Requirements were found to be credit-intensive, not well understood nor valued, and not based on learning outcomes.</p>	<p>(2) Carried out a six-step process to create a new General Education Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Mission Statement (May 2008) • Step 2: Goals & Program Outcomes (February 2009) • Step 3: Model & Degree Types (April 2009) • Step 4: Structural Components & Measurable Learning Outcomes (April 2010) • Step 5: Course & Instructor Criteria (April 2011) • Step 6: Administration, Implementation, & Assessment (proposed, Fall 2011)
<p>(3) Assessment of general education was lacking.</p>	<p>(3) Proposed assessment plan for general education based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a continuous improvement model • course portfolios • faculty learning communities that engage faculty from across campus to share best practices.
<p>(4) Faculty governance structures impeded effective assessment and management of general education.</p>	<p>(4) Revised Faculty Governance structure and processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merged responsibilities for curriculum and assessment in a new General Education Committee; • Revised assessment report and department review self-study formats • Synchronized reporting schedules for the Assessment Subcommittee and the Department Review Subcommittee based on a 5-year and 10-year cycle, respectively; • Proposed new positions: Director of General Education and Assessment Coordinator