



Office of the President Sunil Ahuja, Ph.D.

Dear Faculty and Staff,

As you know, Lakeland Community College was scheduled for a mid-cycle review by the Higher Learning Commission last April. To recap, the College submitted its Assurance Argument in April 2024, following which HLC's assigned team had some questions and concerns over the events that had transpired at the College during the previous six or so months, the Performance Audit released by the state in April 2024, and the information submitted in the Assurance Argument constituting the College's review since the last reaffirmation. The team consequently scheduled an on-site visit to further review those concerns in-person, with a focus on four core components of HLC's Criteria for Accreditation, which occurred last October 28-29.

The HLC team has since issued its findings, which are attached. You will see that the team has found 10 of the 18 core components to be "met with concerns." The team is therefore recommending that Lakeland be placed on Notice, which is a sanction. At this point, this is only the team's recommendation, with the rest of the process to unfold over the next six or so months, which includes our institutional response, an Institutional Actions Council hearing (currently scheduled for the end of April 2025), and final decision by HLC over this summer.

I urge you to read the attached report carefully. Please keep in mind that this is not the final word on the matter as we are still amid the review process, hence I also urge your discretion in this matter. This report is considered preliminary until HLC's final decision this coming summer; however, in the interest of transparency and open communication, I did not want to wait another six months to share this report with you. Additionally, as we prepare our institutional response, the Provost and I will need your input (particularly since neither of us was at the College when the original Assurance Argument was submitted) regarding the fullness and accuracy of information furnished in that document, the team's review, and any additional insights and updates. Institutional accreditation reviews are supposed to be based on input from all institutional constituencies, and we will seek your feedback over the next few weeks as we proceed to next steps in this process.

Happy New Year and welcome back to Spring 2025,

Sunil Ahuja, Ph.D.
President