COD Board of Trustees

Academic Committee

Rationale and Prospectus

Thursday, August 23, 2015
Statutory Authority:

110 ILCS 805/3-25.1

Sec. 3-25.1. To authorize application to the Illinois Community College Board for the approval of new units of instruction, research or public service as defined in this Section and to establish such new units following approval in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the Board of Higher Education Act.

The term "new unit of instruction, research or public service" includes the establishment of a college, school, division, institute, department or other unit including majors and curricula in any field of instruction, research, or public service not theretofore included in the program of the community college, and includes the establishment of any new branch or campus of the institution. The term shall not include reasonable and moderate extensions of existing curricula, research, or public service programs which have a direct relationship to existing programs; and the State Board may, under its rule making power define the character of reasonable and moderate extensions.
Rationales:

A. HLC Criteria

1.D. The institution’s mission demonstrates commitment to the public good.

3.A. The institution’s degree programs are appropriate to higher education.

5.B. The institution’s governance and administrative structures promote effective leadership and support collaborative processes that enable the institution to fulfill its mission.

1. The governing board is knowledgeable about the institution; it provides oversight of the institution’s financial and academic policies and practices and meets its legal and fiduciary responsibilities.
Rationales:

B. HLC Resource Guide (March 2015)

3. Education for a diverse, technological, globally connected world
   A contemporary education must recognize contemporary circumstances: the diversity of U.S. society, the diversity of the world in which students live, and the centrality of technology and the global dynamic to life in the 21st century. More than ever, students should be prepared for lifelong learning and for the likelihood that no job or occupation will last a lifetime. Even for the most technical qualification, students need the civic learning and broader intellectual capabilities that underlie success in the workforce. HLC distinguishes higher education in part on the basis of its reach beyond narrow vocational training to a broader intellectual and social context.

https://www.hlcommission.org/
Rationales:


4. A culture of continuous improvement
Continuous improvement is the alternative to stagnation. Minimum standards are necessary but far from sufficient to achieve acceptable quality in higher education, and the strongest institutions will stay strong through ongoing aspiration. HLC includes improvement as one of two major strands in all its pathways, the other being assurance that member institutions meet the Criteria and the Federal Requirements.

A process of assessment is essential to continuous improvement and therefore a commitment to assessment should be deeply embedded in an institution’s activities. Assessment applies not only to student learning and educational outcomes but to an institution’s approach to improvement of institutional effectiveness.

7. Governance for the well-being of the institution
The well-being of an institution requires that its governing board place that well-being above the interests of its own members and the interests of any other entity. Because HLC accredits the educational institution itself, and not the state system, religious organization, corporation, medical center, or other entity that may own it, it holds the governing board of an institution accountable for the key aspects of the institution’s operations. The governing board must have the independent authority for such accountability and must also hold itself independent of undue influence from individuals, be they donors, elected officials, supporters of athletics, shareholders, or others with personal or political interests.

Governance of a quality institution of higher education will include a significant role for faculty, in particular with regard to currency and sufficiency of the curriculum, expectations for student performance, qualifications of the instructional staff, and adequacy of resources for instructional support.
Rationales:

C. July 2015 HLC visit – open Board discussion

D. Emphasizing the College’s mission and commitment to academics and learning

E. Protecting students and quality of earned credits.

F. Elevate academic strategic and policy considerations to the Board.

G. Further opportunity for community input.
Common themes:

-Promoting the College’s educational mission and goals

-Aligning the academic budget with the community and College’s academic and strategic priorities

-Interfacing between the public and College to ensure new academic units and quality meet community goals and needs.

-Respecting operational work remains with the faculty (e.g., curriculum development, academic freedom) and administration (e.g., executing the tasks required to carry out the College’s educational mission).

-Enhancing the academic experience; review, assess, and improve programs, their quality, and contribution to student learning.

-Developing policies, strategy; faster innovation
Prospectus:

- Expressly tied to the College’s mission statement and meeting accreditation standards (Art. II).

- Input from budget committee where appropriate (Art. II).

- Advise the Board as a whole; in-depth analyses and recommendations on new instructional units (Art. II ¶ 3, Art. IV).

- Give Board guidance to ensure institutional alignment (Art. II ¶ 3 part 3).

- Broad membership (administration, faculty, students) (Art. III(1)(a)).

- Emphasis on strategy and policy. (Art. II ¶ 1).

- Meet 3x per year to coincide with academic calendar (Art. III(3)(a)).

- BOT members: Frank Napolitano, Dianne McGuire, Deanne Mazzochi
College of DuPage
Board of Trustees

Academic Committee

Discussion

Action items: incorporate further feedback, vote on charter, consider future Board Policy incorporation