Dear Colleagues,

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is the institutional accreditation agency with authority from the U.S. Department of Education to accredit the University of Arizona. On April 26 and 27, HLC peer reviewers will conduct a virtual, comprehensive review of the University.

The last comprehensive review by HLC was in December 2010. Over 100 University employees are involved in the preparation for the current review.

HLC accreditation “validates quality of an institution as a whole” and the reviewers assess quality and improvement as outlined in HLC’s Guiding Values and Criteria for Accreditation.

The evaluation includes reviews of the following:

- the mission
- degree programs, including all levels, locations, and modes of delivery
- assessment of student learning
- persistence and degree completion
- processes and policies
- faculty qualifications
- planning, finances, and resources
- governance and administration
- compliance with federal guidelines

This is a very important review for the University of Arizona. Institutional accreditation is required for the University to receive federal financial aid and to offer accredited degrees.

How can you help?

- Faculty, advisors, department heads, deans, directors, and other administrators should try to keep their calendar free April 26 and April 27 through noon for potential meetings with the reviewers.
- Attend HLC virtual meetings appropriate to your position and expertise.
- Be familiar with the information in the HLC Assurance Argument.
- Update your Zoom software and use a stable internet connection.

The HLC peer reviewers will notify the University of the schedule in a few weeks.

If you have questions, please contact Gail Burd.

Liesl Folks, Ph.D., M.B.A.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Gail D. Burd, Ph.D.
Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Teaching, and Learning

The University of Arizona

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Our physical address is:
University of Arizona
1200 E. University Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85721, US

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