

**JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON THE STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE**

Mark McCarthy, Jim Krukones, Todd Bruce, Sherri Crahen, Carlo DeMarchi, Margaret Farrar,  
Sr. Katherine Feely, Rodney Hessinger, Devvin La Barge '19,  
Stephanie Levenson, Stacey Love, Brandi Mandzak, Al Miciak, Michelle Millet,  
Maryclaire Moroney, Patrick Mullane, Ed Peck, Karen Schuele, Amy Wainwright

January 16, 2019  
9:00 a.m.; CAS Conference Room

**NOTES**

Present: M. McCarthy, J. Krukones, T. Bruce, S. Crahen, C. DeMarchi, M. Farrar, K. Feely, R. Hessinger, D. LaBarge, S. Love, M. Millet, M. Moroney, P. Mullane, E. Peck, K. Schuele, A. Wainwright

The notes from the meeting of December 12, 2018, were approved.

The meeting was devoted to preparing for a scheduled visit of a team from the Higher Learning Commission on February 11-12 as part of JCU's 4<sup>th</sup>-Year Comprehensive Evaluation. With the help of a PowerPoint presentation, T. Bruce provided background information about the HLC. He also explained the criteria for accreditation on the Standard Pathway: Mission, Integrity, Teaching & Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support; Teaching & Learning: Evaluation and Improvement; and Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness. Each of the criteria has core components, which are further divided into subcomponents. The Standard Pathway Process followed by JCU includes a comprehensive evaluation in years 4 and 10. For that, the University must submit an Assurance Argument and evidence file as well as a Federal Compliance Filing. All of these materials, which were submitted and "locked" early in January, are available for review by JCU faculty and staff. The purpose of the team visit is to determine whether JCU is fulfilling the accreditation criteria. T. Bruce provided brief biographies of the four team members. Altogether they represent a broad range of institutional expertise that suggested HLC was not focusing on possible problem areas at JCU. The team will spend a day-and-a-half on campus and stay at an off-campus hotel whose identity is purposely kept confidential. Likewise, members of the JCU community who run into any team members off-campus are instructed to refrain from engaging them in conversation. The visit schedule is made known to JCU only one to two weeks prior to the team's arrival on campus. Among other things, it will include a couple of meetings with the President, lunch with Board members, and three open sessions, each of which focuses on one or two of the accreditation criteria. If an exit session is held, it will not include the disclosure of any preliminary findings, unlike past HLC practice. The team will determine whether the University has met each of the core components, met them with concerns, or not met them, based on the team's ability to demonstrate that the University is in compliance with the expectations of the core components. All core components must be met for a criterion to be met. If any core components are met with concerns, the institution is required to undergo monitoring or is placed on notice. If any core components are not met, the institution is placed on probation or can have its accreditation withdrawn. Two to four weeks following the visit, JCU will receive the draft of the team's report and have an opportunity to correct errors of fact; the University also may submit a response. All materials are then submitted to the HLC's Institutional Actions Council for review. It is anticipated that JCU will receive a final decision from HLC by sometime in March or April.

T. Bruce then turned to some "big-picture" considerations. He emphasized that John Carroll is a substantially different place than it was in 2014, when the University was placed on notice.

Moreover, while the changes enacted after 2014 resulted in our being taken off notice, we have continued to move forward since the Notice Visit of 2016. He also emphasized that the team is trying to determine whether the University is in compliance with the accreditation criteria, not looking for perfection. At the same time, since the visit can have serious complications for the entire University community, we should keep in mind the progress JCU has made since 2014. In speaking with team members, we should be succinct and acknowledge the limits of our perspective. Giving voice to our strengths and achievements is encouraged; grinding axes is not. Above all, it is important to be honest.

T. Bruce also singled out certain features of the Assurance Argument that are of special interest to the members of UCSLE, especially concerning student retention (Section 4C).

A brief question-and-answer session followed T. Bruce's presentation focusing on topics about which the HLC visiting team might have concern, e.g., diversity.

The meeting ended at 10:00 a.m.

Notes recorded by J. Krukones