I.  Introductions

Dr. Fashaad Crawford welcomed new and returning members, and provided a recap of the Great Colleges to Work For presentation that took place at the President’s Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting on Monday, March 13, 2016. PAC members were given an overview of data from the Great Colleges program, and also participated in breakout sessions to further discuss the data and its connections to the University’s new core values.

II.  Open Pathway to Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Guest Dr. Paul Gaston, Trustees Professor, provided an overview of the Open Pathway to reaffirmation of accreditation, and explained that the Open Pathway’s 10-year cycle separates the accreditation process into two components: the Quality Initiative, and the Assurance Review.

- The Quality Initiative is limited to Years 5 and 9 and focuses on an area of institutional priority. The institution identifies the Quality Initiative, and provides the rubrics and the timeline necessary to complete the Initiative.
- Two Assurance Reviews take place within the Open Pathway’s ten-year cycle: one in Year 4, and one in Year 10. The Year 4 review requires the preparation of a report, and a review of institutional data. This process occurs asynchronously through the Commission’s online Assurance System, and does not include a site visit.
- The Year 10 review is comprehensive, and includes an Assurance Review process with the Commission’s online Assurance System, along with a site visit and a review of Federal Compliance.
III. Faculty Qualifications

Dr. Crawford provided an update about the Higher Learning Commission’s faculty qualifications policy, and explained that the university is required to have a policy that defines what constitutes unique qualifications by 2017.

Kathy Spicer explained that faculty qualifications is not a new policy, and that the Higher Learning Commission has had this policy in place for some time. The policy requires that institutions have appropriately qualified faculty, and if an institution has faculty that fall outside of the specified parameters of degree qualifications, the institution should have a policy in place to monitor and to remediate that problem, or to provide a rationale that shows the faculty’s additional qualification for teaching that particular level in that particular discipline.

Dr. Crawford noted that the Office of Accreditation, Assessment and Learning (AAL) currently has a process in place regarding faculty qualifications, but he is seeking input from faculty from around the campus related to this issue. The Committee will discuss this further in upcoming meetings.

IV. Discussion
The meeting was concluded by Dr. Crawford.