**Committee members present:**   Kendrick Brown (Chair), Nancy Bostrom, Cheryl Browne, Adrienne Christiansen, Terri Fishel, Jim Hoppe, Lisa Landreman , Peter Mathison, Libby Shoop, Yang Yu

**Absent**: Chad Higdon-Topaz, Kimerly Miller

**Guest**: Provost Kathy Murray

I.   **Brief Introduction**

- Provost Murray thanked SLC for its work in preparing the draft statement of student learning, indicating that it is a good document for starting the conversation.

II.  **Background on the Project for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC)**

Provost Murray provided background for the HLC project "The Degree Qualifications Profile."

- Every 10 years, Macalester participates in a process of reaccreditation.  This was last done in 2006, meaning our next visit is scheduled for 2016.  The process is lengthy and usually begins approximately 18 months before.

- The accrediting body for Macalester is the HLC.  About three years ago, HLC began to redesign the process for reaccreditation; the new model involves an "Assurance Process" and the "Improvement Process."

   o The Assurance Process involves the entire campus and requires Macalester to use supporting evidence to make the case that Macalester meets reaccreditation requirements on a predetermined set of criteria.  This evidence will be uploaded to a specially created server which is still under development.  The plan is for the evidence to be continually updated, and then officially reviewed in the 4th and 10th years of the reaccreditation cycles.

   o The Improvement Process will replace the traditional self-study with a "Pathway" or "Quality Initiative."  The institution chooses a quality initiative, documents the initiative in a report, and then receives a campus visit by peer reviewers.

- HLC is piloting the process for the new Pathways. The first cohort included a number of institutions (St. Olaf among them) that chose their own Quality Initiative.  The second cohort is focused on testing the commercial software being developed to support the assurance process. HLC invited Macalester to be part of a third cohort, in which an external foundation provides a quality project which institutions may undertake.

- HLC was awarded a grant from the Lumina Foundation to "explore the applicability and usefulness of Lumina's Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP) through HLC's new Open Pathway model for reaffirmation and accreditation" (additional detail from the HLC website). Macalester will test a portion of the DQP, likely the goals focused on Specialized Knowledge and Civic Learning. These two options give Macalester the option to include both the curricular and co-curricular. In addition to testing a portion of the DQP, our cohort will also be testing the latest software revisions.

- At this moment, the process is fluid. This fall, Kathy, Kendrick and Jim will attend an HLC meeting at which time more details should become available. It is anticipated that we will begin the Quality Initiative within the next year, the process will take approximately two years, and then we'll begin the Assurance Process as part of our regular reaccreditation cycle.

- At this point, SLC will serve in an advisory role for the Quality Initiative. The General Education Requirements Committee (GERC) will provide general education assessment data; academic departments and student affairs will continue their ongoing cycles of assessment.

- SLC is engaging the community with discussions about the learning outcomes. After we've achieved consensus and endorsement, the next step will be to look at every domain (institutional, academic departments, general education, and co-curricular) to understand how we match up in terms of the learning opportunities we provide and the assessment that is already underway. In the process, we'll review how well this matches or does not match up with the DQP. SLC will continue with the process we had already planned in relation to our own outcomes, but in addition to that, we will overlay the learning outcomes from the DQP and report on our experience and observations.

III. **Discussion**

SLC members raised questions and brought forth suggestions:

- This effort will require broad campus participation. We should be clear about any additional work people will be asked to do as a result of the new process.

  - Under the old model, academic departments would have had to help with quality assurance. This should not make additional demands on departments. As a whole, we expect that our participation in the third pilot will parallel the work we would have done anyway, with the advantage that we have the opportunity to take part in a national conversation.

  - When the process gets underway, the College will establish a steering committee to lead the effort.

- Since the last reaccreditation visit, we have many new chairs and new faculty. We'll need to educate the community about the process, etc. It might help to visually plot out the accreditation process.

- What is the Lumina Foundation?

  - The Lumina Foundation works to increase access to and success in higher education. It is allied with AAC&U.

## IV. Update on Town Hall Meetings

- There are three town hall meetings scheduled today, the first with Chairs of academic departments. In addition to the town halls we've already scheduled, are there other groups for which we should arrange a presentation—the Student Affairs Leadership Team?

***Action Item: Lisa or Jim will add an agenda item for an upcoming SALT meeting, to allocate time for a discussion of the draft statement before SALT is scheduled to vote on endorsement.***

- All SLC members are welcome to talk to colleagues and seek out feedback on the draft statement at the town hall meetings and/or informally.

- Suggestions for what to emphasize in the presentation:

  - This isn't about one requirement, but about a Macalester education as a whole.

  - Student Affairs may be using the statement to focus attention on the programs it provides and how they relate to curricular goals.

  - No one department is responsible for offering all of these learning opportunities.

  - Include perspective and context about why this is important.