

**ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES**

**Resolution No. 2024.08/45  
Endorsement of Higher  
Learning Commission  
Assurance Argument**

**Resolution**

Whereas, accreditation is the primary process for assuring and improving the quality of higher education institutions in the United States and for ensuring compliance by the institutions with federal statutes and codes, and

Whereas accreditation is carried out by seven accreditation commissions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council on Higher Educations, and

Whereas, the Higher Learning Commission is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation as the accreditation commission responsible for accrediting colleges and universities in Illinois, and

Whereas, the Higher Learning Commission last accredited the University on August 5, 2015, for a ten-year period, and

Whereas, in January 2023, former President Terri Kinzy appointed an Accreditation Steering Committee to prepare a request for reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission, and

Whereas, the Accreditation Steering Committee and its work teams have prepared the reaccreditation request, known as the Assurance Argument, with substantial input from internal University constituencies, and

Whereas, on March 6, 2024, the Academic Senate unanimously endorsed the Assurance Argument, and

Whereas, on August 2, 2024, the Board of Trustees received the latest draft of the Assurance Argument and report regarding the status of the reaccreditation process, and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees finds that the Assurance Argument accurately and effectively document University compliance with accreditation criteria established by the Higher Learning Commission.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees endorses the request to the Higher Learning Commission for reaccreditation for a ten-year period, as articulated in the Assurance Argument presented to the Board on August 2, 2024.

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Board Action on:	_____	Postpone:	_____
Motion by:	_____	Amend:	_____
Second by:	_____	Disapprove:	_____
Vote:	Yeas: _____ Nays: _____	Approve:	_____

ATTEST: Board Action, August 2, 2024

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Secretary / Chairperson

**Board of Trustees  
Illinois State University  
Higher Learning Commission Assurance Argument**

On August 5, 2015, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accredited Illinois State University for a ten-year period. The University is now preparing its request to HLC for reaccreditation to 2035. The reaccreditation site visit is scheduled for October 28-29, 2024.

Illinois State uses the Open Pathways accreditation process. Illinois State completed a quality initiative between 2021-2024 that focused on student success.

In advance of the October 2024 evaluation visit, the University is also required to submit a document called an assurance argument. In it the University presents evidence that it fully meets HLC accreditation standards. The University's effort to compile this document began in January 2023 with appointment by former President Kinzy of an accreditation steering committee and seven affiliated work teams. More than 50 members of the University community representing all four divisions and the student body have served on the teams. The effort has resulted in multiple drafts of the assurance argument, each incorporating feedback from a university constituency.

The latest draft of the assurance argument and associated evidence has been provided to the Board of Trustees for review and discussion. This draft will be revised to incorporate feedback received from the Board and other campus constituents and to incorporate the most recently available information regarding the University. We ask that the Board of Trustees endorse this draft of the assurance argument.

More information about the reaccreditation effort, including accreditation standards, a timeline, and a roster of steering committee and work team members, is available at <https://accreditation.illinoisstate.edu/>.