



LEGAL PURPOSE AND JURISDICTION

Bylaw Change Approved on First Reading

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) approved this bylaw change on first reading at its meeting on February 28–March 1, 2019.

Background

Article II of HLC’s Bylaws indicates that HLC “exists to validate quality in and to stimulate improvement of higher education.” Article II goes on to say that HLC “achieves these purposes through processes of accreditation.” This does not address all aspects of HLC’s work, which includes ongoing programming and training to improve quality (e.g., the annual conference, the Academies, and workshops). In addition, Article III, Section 2 describes the jurisdiction of HLC as it relates to “accreditation and candidacy for accreditation.” However, HLC may wish to engage in elective programming and training outside of the region for accreditation. This type of work is potentially excluded from the scope of HLC’s jurisdiction as defined in Article III, Section 2.

In order to more inclusively define the work of HLC, this proposed change would update the Bylaws to (1) address elective programming as a component of HLC’s work and (2) clarify that the jurisdiction of HLC for purposes other than accreditation is not limited to the region listed in Article III, Section 2.

Comments Invited

HLC invites comments on this change before the Board takes final action at its meeting on June 27–28, 2019. Comments can be sent to policycomments@hlcommission.org. Comments are due by May 28, 2019.

Proposed Change

Wording that was deleted or revised is shown as strikethrough (~~old wording~~); new language, whether through addition or revision, is shown in bold (**new wording**).

Bylaw Title: Legal Purposes of the Commission
Article, Section: Article II

The Commission exists to validate quality in and to stimulate improvement of higher education. It achieves these purposes through **a variety of means, including** processes of accreditation based on criteria and requirements, made effective through a system of peer review, and communicated to both educational institutions and to the public. **At its discretion, the Commission offers elective training and education programs to enhance quality in higher education.**

Bylaw Title: **Jurisdiction for Accreditation**
Article, Section: Article III, Section 2

The Commission shall extend accreditation and candidacy for accreditation to higher education institutions which are 1) registered to do business* or incorporated in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, or operating under federal authority within these states, subject to provisions for application specified in Section 5 of this Article, and 2) have substantial presence, as defined in Commission policy, in these states.

**See Section 5 of this Article.*