



# West Plains Update

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**University Council**

**September 2, 2025**

**Zora Mulligan, Chancellor**

# Top 3

1. Opening day enrollment
2. HLC site visit prep
3. Strategic planning





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- 1. Opening day enrollment**
2. HLC visit prep
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- **Headcount up 4%**
- **Credit hours down 4%**
- **Significant decrease in first-time freshmen**
- **Significant increase in online, continuing students, and dual credit**



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## THAT WAS THEN...

- Campus is currently on probation
- 2023 site visit team concluded that campus had met three criteria with concern; one criterion not met
- Issues were all related to assessment
  - Have we articulated what students are supposed learn in each class and program?
  - How are we determining whether students meet those objectives?
  - What do we do with that data?
  - Are the outcomes the same across sections – including sections taught in China, by per-course faculty, and as dual credit?



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## ...THIS IS NOW

- Director of assessment has been hired and is championing assessment throughout campus
- Academic leaders have done significant work with faculty to develop course- and program-level student learning outcomes
- The campus has invested in Watermark to compare outcomes across sections and roll up to the program and institution levels
- Co-curricular assessment criteria have been drafted and data collected
- Communication with Dalian, per-course, and dual credit instructors has improved to increase consistency
- New assurance argument is in final draft stage and out for final review; aligned with new criteria



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## WHAT'S NEXT

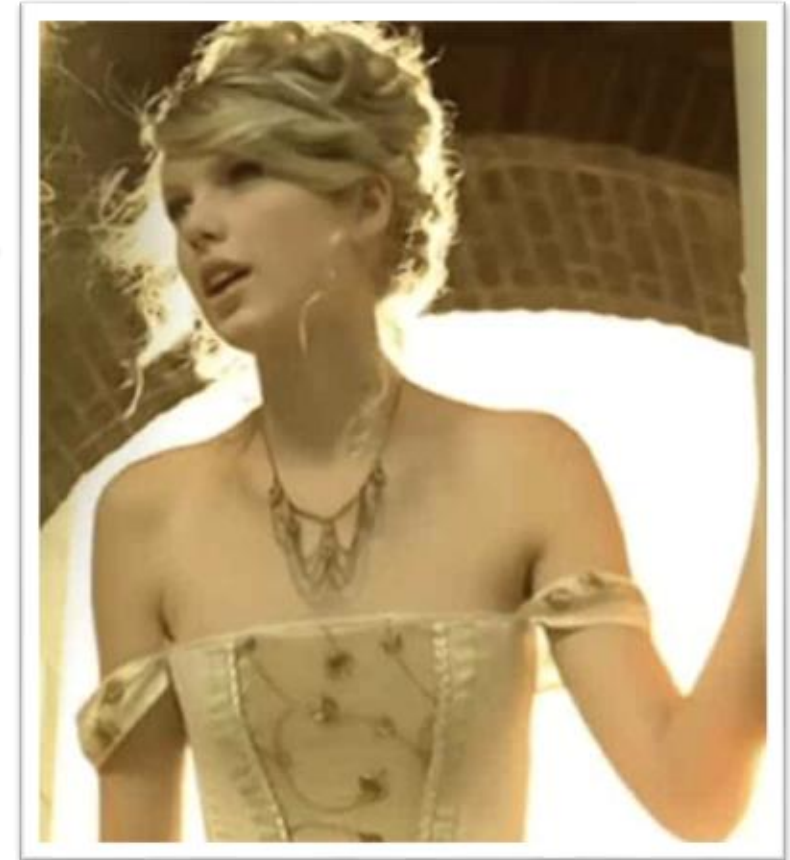
- September 22: Deadline to submit assurance argument
- October 3: Prep session for BOG members
- November 17-18: HLC site visit
- Early/mid-December: Will likely have a good indication of site visit team members' recommendations
- February: Hearing at HLC HQ
- June: Notice of official decision

# Top 3

**It's a love story (about assessment)**

**HLC, just say yes**

**Or at least, yes with an  
interim report before your  
next regular visit**





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- **Consultants hired**
- **Co-chairs identified**
- **Working on committee**
- **Complete in time for June 2026 BOG approval**
- **Strategic Enrollment Management Plan and Facilities Master Plan will follow**

# Update on Team: Transitions

You say goodbye...



**Dakota Bates**  
Assoc. VC for  
Marketing and Communications

...and I say hello



**Brian Mitchell**  
Director of  
Facility Operations



**Justin Long**  
Director of  
TJ Swift House  
ASCEND Program

# Update on Self: Same Old Z

Using jazz hands to convey important information to Senator Eric Schmitt's staff





# Questions?