



Submitted photo

**University President Troy Paino and Don Wallace, President of the ECPD Academic Council, shake hands after signing an agreement of academic cooperation between Truman and the ECPD. The agreement could lead to Truman offering an online Master's in Leadership program to students overseas.**

**ECPD | President Paino and Truman administration heads journeyed to the Balkans to sign ECPD agreement**

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He said he doesn't expect coordination between the offices to be challenging since they work together often already.  
"Our three offices work very well together," Minch said. "Honestly, this is the way the market is trending nationally ... requiring people in those different offices to work together, and we've got a great relationship so it's very easy to do."  
After Paino returned to Truman, Minch said he and Lecaque visited areas in the Balkans the ECPD thought would produce significant student interest for the program and possibly a liaison to work with those students. He said online education is a much more blended experience in the Balkans, so they needed to determine if there were any physical spaces available for students to meet with a representative and whether Truman would have the necessary facilities if

they ever were to send a faculty member to Europe for a week-end seminar.  
Minch said they visited Belgrade, Serbia, then traveled to Pula, Croatia, and Ljubljana, Slovenia, as well as a couple other cities in Serbia.  
He said students in the region still are learning things such as how a government can run ethically or how economic development can occur effectively — so many existing educational programs in the area as well as the program Truman is considering focuses on addressing those needs.  
Minch said he thinks Truman could benefit from increased graduate enrollment in the Master's in Leadership program, as well as the increased revenue. He said the cross-cultural experience could provide advantages to students taking the program at Truman who would be in the same section as

students taking the program in Bosnia or Croatia.  
"One of the cool things is the time difference is only seven hours," Minch said. "Unlike other parts of the world, if you wanted to do a video link you could have students here meeting on a common Saturday morning or something and [the students overseas] could meet during the evening, and they have a class together."  
Minch said it's always good for the University to have international ties, since it benefits Truman students and improves Truman's reputation. He said the University should be distinguished from other schools in Missouri by its connection with higher education in the Balkans, which he said was evidenced by high media coverage during their time in Europe, including television appearances from Paino and newspaper articles detailing the Truman administrators' trip.

**ACCREDITATION | Truman prepares report for HLC review**

Truman administration and faculty discuss preparations of the 35,000 page report, which must be submitted to the HLC during the accreditation process every 10 years. During the past, the University has demonstrated a level of excellence that merits accreditation and members of Truman's HLC Committee say they think this year will be no different.

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Vittengl said the accreditation process highlights Truman's goals as an institution of higher education.  
"While accreditation is super important, what [the HLC] really want to know is whether we're doing what we say we're going to do," Vittengl said. "What we say we're going to do is our mission, and it's Truman's mission I want people to focus on."

Susan Thomas, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, reaffirmed how important feedback from University faculty and students is to the report.  
"To ensure that the report is as strong as it can be, it is imperative that the Truman community reads the Assurance Argument for accuracy and up-to-date information," Thomas said. "If there is inaccurate or outdated information, or if there is evidence that is more compelling than the evidence that is currently presented in the document, it is important that Dr. Vittengl is made aware of this."

Physics professor Ian Lindevald is another member of the HLC Leadership Team who worked to compile and create the Assurance Argument. Lindevald said several of the 12 members of the committee formed pairs, and each group focused on breaking down one of the five criteria of the HLC.

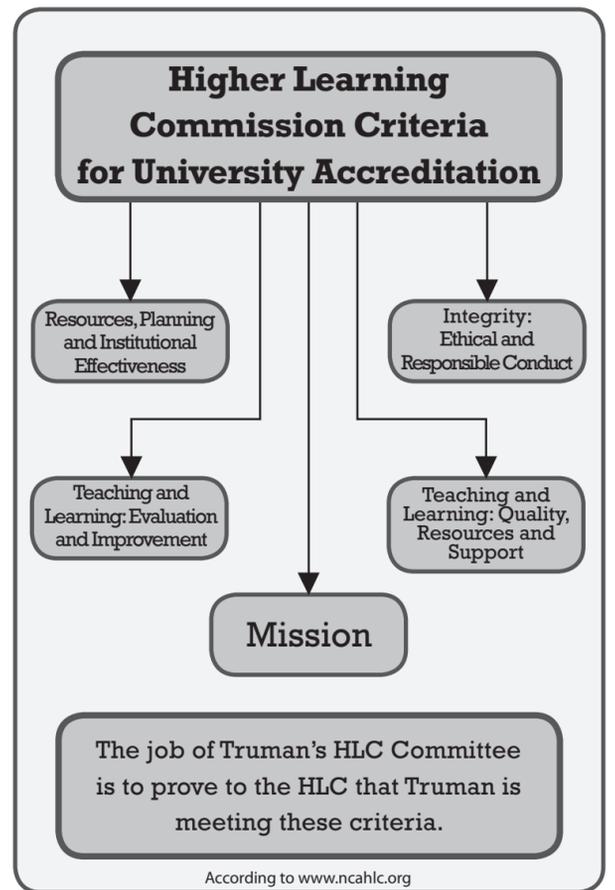
Thomas, who joined the HLC Leadership team upon her arrival at Truman last summer, expects the University to maintain full accreditation from the HLC. She said the HLC committee has done a good job preparing the Assurance Argument.

Lindevald said he and Vittengl were tasked with brainstorming about criterion no. 4, Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement. Lindevald said after all the pairs returned with their ideas, Vittengl combined the different documents into a larger, cohesive narrative.

"The HLC Leadership Team has done a terrific job," Thomas said. "The team is on schedule to meet the deadline for submission, and it will have the campus well-prepared for the site visit in March."

To further their knowledge of the process to maintain accreditation and how to best compile their HLC report, Lindevald said the Leadership Team attended two HLC Conferences in Chicago, during April 2013 and April 2014.

The Academic Affairs Office emailed the report in its entirety to the Truman community Nov. 6. Information sessions about the report will take place Nov. 12, Nov. 13 and Nov. 18 in Violette Hall 1000.



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