The Geography Department MOA identified five issues on which action was to be taken. The department is to be commended for making substantial progress on each issue. These are discussed individually below:

1. The Geography Department will continue its ongoing process to refine the Geography curriculum, begun in 1995, with specific attention to (1) enrollment trends, (2) balance of courses for majors/non-majors, (3) consolidating/focusing concentrations.

**Evaluation:** The department appears to have made significant progress in developing its curriculum to serve both its majors and the Liberal Studies Program given its small number of faculty; 74% of courses serve the Liberal Studies Program. Most A domain courses also serve interdisciplinary programs. The department has carefully focused its concentrations to position itself as a serious player in the growing urban planning and information systems arenas. Dean Mezey comments that the department continues to make strong efforts at in the area of curriculum.

2. The Geography department chair and the Dean will continue to give careful consideration to hiring of new faculty

**Evaluation:** The Dean comments, A new faculty line was provided to support its broadened curricular mission. The department increased its diversity by hiring one new female member of the department. It also participated in an opportunity hire in which the candidate withdrew for personal reasons. The department is to be commended for attracting a minority candidate and also for its strategic planning for faculty growth.

3. The Geography department and the Dean will continue conversations about the role of the GIS system within the college and its shared use by other departments.

**Evaluation:** The new GIS laboratory has placed the department on the cutting edge of the field and the overwhelming success of the laboratory and related courses are a significant accomplishment. Not to detract from this achievement, but its very success raises significant questions that need continued attention and dialogue. Questions of shared use imply need for greater communication re. the similar facility established by the College of Commerce

4. The department and the Dean will continue to work to improve the connections of the department and the GIS certificate program to external constituencies.

**Evaluation:** The GIS certificate program has been approved and seems very desirable, but needs marketing support. The Department may want to contact Dean David Justice
and consider working closely with the Office of Continuing and Certificate Programs (OCCP).

5. **The Geography department and the Dean will continue to discuss possibilities for expanding the department.**

   Evaluation: The Department credits the APR process as leading to new faculty resources (one new faculty line). With the establishment of the GIS and many new Liberal Studies courses, enrollments are growing; with appropriate marketing of the certificate program enrollments should expand substantially. We agree with the department chair who states, **Awe look to the administration to maximize its A Geography Advantage @ by considering strategic appointments that will have College-wide impacts.**

**Back to Cycle 1**

**GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT**

**Progress Report on MOA: Comments and Evaluation**

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**Evaluation:** The GIS certificate program has been approved and seems very desirable, but needs marketing support. The Department may want to contact Dean David Justice (Distance/Life-Long Learning) and consider working closely with the Office of Continuing and Certificate Programs (OCCP).

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Evaluation: The Department credits the APR process as leading to new faculty resources (one new faculty line). With the establishment of the GIS and many new Liberal Studies courses, enrollments are growing; with appropriate marketing of the certificate program enrollments should expand substantially. We agree with the department chair who states, Awe look to the administration to maximize its A Geography Advantage @ by considering strategic appointments that will have College-wide impacts.