I will first list the issues and actions were agreed upon in the Final Memorandum of Agreement and then report of the progress made toward realizing them.

Faculty Involvement

1. The program and dean agree to clarify the involvement of faculty in the IS program. They also agree to identity short-term arrangements and long-term strategies that would be appropriate for formalizing the responsibilities of faculty in other departments to the IS program.
   - These strategies should be designed to relieve the stress that arises from the cross-department “sharing” of appointments.
   - These strategies should be designed to maintain the high level of involvement in IS by members of other departments that is vital to the discipline.
   - These strategies should be designed to give faculty the time to invest in the program beyond teaching courses, in such issues as advising, governance, etc.

2. The program and the dean agree to explore the possibility of joint appointments to the IS program.

Discussion of Faculty Involvement Section: 1.) The program has added one tenure-track line this year. That may help in creating a more even-handed distribution of tasks. The other two “line” faculty have been on partial leave this year. As the new governance structure becomes even more routinized, we hope this problem will take care of itself. 2.) Discussions in this area are ongoing. As more of the shared faculty in international studies become tenured, opportunities for joint appointments are more likely to present themselves.

Mission

3. Recognizing that there is a creative tension in debates about the program mission, the program and the dean agree that there should be a process established during which the program’s faculty can discuss the orientation of the program and the mission of the curriculum.

Discussion of Mission Section: This discussion is on-going. It will be the main concern of our discussions the next six months as we move toward searching for a new director for the program.
4. Acknowledging the exceptional rate of change in the curriculum over the past five years, the program faculty agree to continue their efforts to stabilize the curriculum. Within the goal of developing a cohesive curriculum, the program agrees to continue to discuss whether the concentration requirement is meeting the curricular goals of the program.

Discussion of Stabilizing the Curriculum Section: This discussion is on-going. The graduate curriculum is working well. We made a minor adjustment this spring in the joint program with MPS. The adjustment gave students more flexibility. Our discussion of the undergraduate program will focus on the pedagogical style of the 200-level courses, standardizing our two hours of homework for every one hour in class standard, working through our understanding of the individualized concentration, and discovering how to make our senior seminar is real capstone.

Appropriate Class Size for the Program

5. Recognizing that there are no set formula or specific guidelines for setting class size for any specific program, the program faculty, director, and dean agree that the program’s average class size, which ranges from 17 to 20, is acceptable.

- The program director agrees to work within the parameters set by the dean each quarter to schedule classes.

Discussion of Class Size Section: This was implemented.

Plan of Action

6. In response to the APRC subcommittee’s recommendation that the program develop a clear plan of action for next year, the program director and faculty created a list which the APRC subcommittee agrees is an acceptable agenda of issues to be considered in the future.

- This plan includes issues related to advising, teaching, program morale, the graduate program, spatial issues for faculty/student interaction, and support for foreign language learning by undergraduates.

- The program director and faculty agree to continue discussing these matters in the coming year.

Discussion of Plan of Action Section: The advising plan was completed. Program morale is improving. This discussion of the other items is on-going.

I will now list the issues and actions on which there is agreement to do further work and continue conversation in the Final Memorandum of Agreement and then report of the progress made toward these conversations.

Joint Faculty appointments

1. The program, dean and Executive Vice President recognize that there is a possibility of cross-college collaboration in joint appointments that could strengthen
interdisciplinary programs. The Executive Vice President agrees to consider policies that will make this possible on a regular basis.

Discussion of Joint Faculty Section: To the best of our knowledge, no action has been taken on this issue.

Efforts to Stabilize the Curriculum

2. The program might consider analyzing the existing course-taking patterns of students in the IS curriculum as it continues to evolve a more coherent curriculum.

Discussion of Curriculum Section: We are waiting for a convenient way to access this data through PeopleSoft software.

Spatial Planning

3. The program has identified the issue of spatial planning as especially important to its future direction: the program needs informal, quiet spaces which are conducive to faculty student interactions. As the university makes plans for building spaces on Lincoln Park Campus, the program would like to be included in the discussions. The Executive Vice President agrees to continue the conversation broadly on matters of spatial planning, especially in relation to the proposed Campus Learning Communities for undergraduate students.

Discussion of Spatial Planning Section: As the second floor Dietzgen office and classroom space was being designed, we were consulted. As a result, the floor on which we work has two 25 seat classrooms with flexible seating arrangements, a spacious foyer with moveable furniture, a small informal meeting area near the kitchen with chairs and table, and a large informal study/reception area near the classrooms.

I will now list the areas of discussion in which further work is needed, but as yet unspecified in the Final Memorandum of Agreement and then report of the progress made toward these conversations.

Advising

1. The program’s highly individualized curriculum requires a sophisticated advising process. The program would like to develop an advising database that would allow faculty to have better advisory relationship with the students that goes beyond picking classes and reviewing progress toward graduation.

   • The program may want to consider working with university offices (OPIR, EM) to explore the possibilities of sharing existing information on students or developing common database platforms through which to do so.

   • The program may want to consider sharing information with The Advising Project, which is doing advanced thinking on how to improve advising

Discussion of Advising Section: The undergraduate committee submitted a report that has already restructured advising. The current system is more equitable and broader-based.
2. The program would like to find ways to foster faculty to faculty conversations about teaching and academic issues, such as technology, community-based service learning, internships, diversity, etc.

Discussion of Teaching Section: This discussion is on-going.