The following is an update on the July 1999 Memorandum of Agreement for the department of nursing.

The past year has included many changes both planned and realized. The department will be moving within the next month. The new space will include much needed laboratory space, new laboratory equipment and new faculty and staff offices. We have lost one full-time faculty member to a better offer elsewhere and gained 2 one-year appointments. A search for a new tenure track position was approved for the current Academic year.

Master’s entry in practice

During the fall of 1999 the department designed the proposed master’s degree program for entry into nursing practice. The program was approved by the university curriculum committee and is currently under review by the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation (IDPR). Initial review by the IDPR was very positive in regard to the curriculum, however the reviewers were concerned about the small faculty size. The IDPR recommended expanding the full time faculty. Presently there have been many inquiries regarding the program and five students are completing prerequisites awaiting IDPR approval due in November.

Advising

The two regularized part time positions have enhanced the ability to advise students especially in Naperville where we were able to hire a person with extensive academic experience who works in industry full-time. The diversity of the programs offered at Lincoln Park requires somewhat greater knowledge than part-time individuals generally have. Advising remains a major part of all full time faculty workload. Each faculty member advises at least 30 students.
Resource Allocation

The chair and dean have discussed resources extensively in the past year in relation to the new space. The new space was designed focusing on the department’s unique needs. Funds were approved to provide the space and equipment necessary to support the new master’s entry program. Ongoing discussions regarding resources are anticipated to continue after the move.

Updates on continued work from MOA

The nursing program remains flexible with multiple off campus sites and evening and weekend courses. Enrollment at the University of Chicago campus is down since a new cohort was not started to replace June 2000 graduates. The department also offers on average 1-3 LA&S (focal point and domain) courses per quarter. This contribution to LA&S stretches the faculty workload, however the department recognizes the benefit to both LA&S and the department.

Lastly, marketing remains a weak point in the department primarily from lack of consistent office help to assist the administrative assistant. The department chair designed a new web site for the department and efforts are underway to develop additional marketing materials and to update graduate and undergraduate offices regarding current programs and sites.

Future Goals

Future goals include; 1. exploring distance learning as a strategy for off site course offerings and

2. expanding the faculty role in marketing programs. To accomplish the distance learning goal the department will need the assistance or support of a computer designer part time. To expand marketing efforts through outreach to health care settings, faculty will need to devote time at least once per year to attend recruitment functions.