In the year since the adoption of the MOA, the Political Science department has made the following progress toward fulfillment of its commitments:

1. We nearly completed the review of our curriculum. We would have done so but in the process of discussing whether to establish a new requirement that students must have written at least one research paper before graduation the question was raised whether there ought to be a methods class as a prerequisite to upper-level courses in which papers would be required. A committee was composed to hammer out a proposal. It proposed a framework for such a course that the department consensually agreed was worth further development. Michael Alvarez wrote a QIC grant proposal, which was approved, which will allow him to develop the framework into a full-blown course proposal during the summer. At a department meeting in the Autumn we will make a decision about establishing a requirements for a methods class and a research paper.

2. We did not make any progress toward the development of a system of indicators of success of individual courses and the overall curriculum.

3. We have implemented the advising initiatives in the MOA. Wayne Steger is serving as advising coordinator, a new position proposed in the MOA and carrying a one course load reduction approved by Dean Mezey. Wayne meets all students as they declare the political science major to provide in-take advising and orientation. He arranged a panel session on work opportunities for students with political science degrees. He has been in contact with Adela Pena of the Career Center for discussing joint efforts.
4. We have made limited progress toward the building of a sense of community. I failed to implement the specific proposal of appointing a calendar committee. That task will be left to the new department chair, Rose Spalding. She plans to have a full day department retreat on September 9, which, although independent of the establishment of a calendar committee, should serve to promote the underlying value of building departmental esprit de corps.

CC: Bennett, Larry; Meister, Richard; mezey, Mike; Spalding, Rose; Steger, Wayne