DePaul University Academic Program Review

Cycle 3: Spring 2000--Spring 2001

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT – JUNE 2001

Department of Art & History

As a result of the third cycle of DePaul University's Academic Program Review Process (Cycle 3), the participants in the process enter into the following agreements. The participants understand that this document will be available to be made public once all the signatures are in place.

Actions agreed upon for the coming academic year

1. Curriculum

   a. Approval of the new curriculum. The department has developed a new curriculum and new course sequences to be discussed at its June 8 faculty retreat. Once finalized, the curriculum proposal will be submitted to the LA&S Curriculum Committee in the Fall of 2001. Once approved, the new curriculum will be implemented in the 2002-2003 academic year. The curriculum changes will require improvement in the way students are advised, especially regarding prerequisites and course sequencing. To communicate the new curriculum to students, the department will develop a new brochure and will make sure the new curriculum sequences are posted to the university's electronic course bulletin.

   b. Interdisciplinary programs. The department is committed to continuing participation in and support of interdisciplinary programs. Many of the Art/Art History courses will continue to be cross-listed. The new faculty positions in Latin American Art History and in Painting will create opportunities for additional courses to be cross-listed next year.

2. Assessment

   The department will form an Assessment Subcommittee next year as part of its Planning and Budget Committee. The plan for assessment is to start with two introductory courses and define a focused task for one aspect of the course/course sequence. Assessment efforts will then proceed incrementally
through the various levels of courses in the program. The Assessment Subcommittee will report yearly on aspects of the program and student learning goals.

3. Faculty Diversity

The department just completed two new searches by hiring two new faculty, one in Latin American Art History and one in Painting. The department noted that while it is committed to diversity, filling positions with diverse candidates have proven to be difficult (the one diversity candidate turned down DePaul’s offer for a better one at another university). The department will make it a priority in the coming academic year to explore options for increasing diversity within the department in the short term, such as pursuing college funds for creating a one-year visiting scholar position, extending honorarium funds for diverse guest speakers, and diversifying the course programming to respond to specific social/ethnic populations of students and faculty. The dean noted that the department has had a strong record of diversifying its curriculum and should be recognized for its commitment to multiculturalism and diversity.

4. Barat

Next year the department will begin planning the details of their commitment to Barat College of DePaul. The department has agreed to offer two majors there, beginning in the 2002-2003 academic year. The plan will address facilities needs, curriculum structure, and faculty hiring. As part of a larger university plan regarding Barat, this planning process will be separate from the department’s own internal planning. The first step in planning will be an investigation of the current Barat program and its facilities. The dean notes that the department faculty will have a significant role in deciding how the Barat program will fit with DePaul’s and how the facilities there should be improved.

5. Strategic Planning/BFA

The department is committed to continuing discussions of university initiatives for interdisciplinary media/art programs. It recently drafted a response to the proposed MA in Visual Studies and in the coming year will meet with other departments’ planning committees to discuss possible connections between them and the Department of Art & Art History. Next year the department will also continue planning for its own future growth by exploring models for a possible BFA.

Issues on which there is joint commitment to continue working

1. Faculty
a. Barat. In addition to the two new faculty hired this year, the department will seek an additional two positions for the 2002-2003 academic year, for the expansion to Barat. One position will be in the Foundations area, and one in Art History. The college noted that these faculty positions would be half time in Lincoln Park, half time at Barat. As with all other positions, the department will seek diverse applicants for these positions. (see below).

b. Full-time vs. Part-time Faculty. The department is committed to striking a balance between departmental course needs (service, teaching loads) and the needs of the college and university (full-time faculty teaching in the Liberal Studies domain courses, etc.). The department and dean agree that there should be some guidelines and shared sense of future direction regarding the target numbers of full-time vs. part-time positions in the department. The dean noted that in the past few years, the department has steadily reduced the number of courses taught by part-time faculty. The dean also noted that next year the department will have 16 faculty lines, 4 of which are held for one-year, non-tenure-track positions. The dean encouraged the department to explore possibilities for tapping the city’s pool of artists as part-time instructors. The dean also noted that the department could consider the long-term teaching professional positions used in other units in order to hire faculty who can also fulfill service needs within the department in addition to teaching.

2. Facilities/Resources

a. Facilities. Departmental surveys indicated a high level of frustration among students at the limited workspace in the current facilities (especially the photography and print-making labs, the areas where students paint, and exhibition space). The department also noted that faculty workspace for computer labs (graphic design) was limited. The department has developed and will submit to the dean a budget proposal with specific recommendations to address these needs by acquiring rooms in the current building. The dean noted that rooms on the second floor in the current building may become available by the Fall 2002, which would allow for significant reorganization of space. The department and the dean are committed to making the facilities issue a priority.

b. Student workers. The department will also propose to the dean a plan for increasing the student worker help in the labs. The dean agrees that the concept of the plan is a good one, but it will have to be considered in the context of available and perhaps limited funds.

University-level Issues and Commitments

During Cycle 3, the unit program review self-studies raised several issues that have important university-wide implications. In subsequent conversations about these major issues, the units, the deans, the Academic Program Review Committee members, and the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs all have recognized the need for university-level coordination in the following areas: a) developing appropriate staffing models to support growth; b) assisting units in the transition to the PeopleSoft student
administrative system and in getting the maximum benefits from it, such as identifying and counting double majors, enforcing prerequisites, and securing better information and support for student advising; c) providing research assistance to units through university-level research offices; d) improving support for advising, especially in light of PeopleSoft; e) facilitating cross-college collaboration within DePaul with respect to new programs of study. To follow up on these common issues and determine the appropriate courses of action needed to address them at the university and unit level, the Academic Program Review Committee and the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs agree to do the following:

1. The Academic Program Review Committee agrees to prepare a summary report on Cycle 3 to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs which discusses these and other issues that have important connections to other university-wide initiatives. That report will be made public, along with the Memoranda of Agreement.

2. The Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs agrees to direct the appropriate university-level offices to work with the units and their deans to determine how to effectively address these issues.

3. The Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs will require a progress report in June of 2002 from the appropriate university offices that will be shared with the Academic Program Review Committee.

Acknowledgements

The APRC chair and the APRC subcommittee members thank the unit’s review committee for its work in this cycle. The APRC subcommittee members noted that the Art Department’s review team was very easy to work with, and the discussions throughout the review process were very productive. The EVP also thanked those involved in APR for making this process work, noting that it is an important part of the university’s monitoring and maintaining academic quality.

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A hard copy of this document was signed by:

Chair of the Unit Review Committee

Department Chair/Program Director

Chair of APRC Subcommittee

Chair of APRC

Dean of the College

Associate V.P. for Academic Affairs
Executive V.P. for Academic Affairs

*The hard copy with signatures is on file in the Office of the Associate V.P. for Academic Affairs and is available upon request.