The Theatre School Program Review Committee that conducted the initial 2000-2001 program review evaluated The Theatre School’s progress toward the action points identified in the Memorandum of Agreement of June 2001. I agree with the committee’s assessment, outlined in the report below.

The comments in bold inserted in the report reflect my input on the issues.

**TTS Progress Report**

“Actions agreed upon for the coming academic year”

**MFA in Acting:** the committee was formed, met the past two summers, and presented a preliminary, revised curriculum to the performance faculty this fall. The committee has been expanded and the revision is ongoing. It’s turning out to be a more complicated endeavor than first anticipated, but progress is continuing with a goal of presenting a second revision to the Faculty of the School by spring quarter.

It is the goal to present the revised program to the CCP by their deadline for consideration in Spring 02-03. Recruitment of the new program could occur in 03-04 with the first new students in Fall 04. It is also the plan to design a transition to the new curriculum as soon as the program is approved, implementing some elements for current students.

**MFA in Design:** the continuing student is finishing her work this year. The incoming student has left the program; the design faculty felt this departure was emblematic of the problem with the program. No new students have been entered.

We will re-evaluate the “suspended” status of this program after completing the transition to the revised MFA Acting Program.

**MFA in Directing:** this program has already instituted some changes in its curriculum and is considering additional changes for 2003/2004.
As outlined in the report, this program is currently strong. It will be strengthened further with the ongoing revisions and the improvements in the MFA Acting Program.

**Core Curriculum:** it is anticipated that the Theatre Studies core curriculum revision will be presented to the Theatre School Curriculum Committee in October and to the CCP by the end of the fall quarter. The Theatre Studies core curriculum should be in place for the fall of 2003, as will the revision of the General Theatre Studies major. The integration of the Barat Theatre Arts program into the School is ongoing.

The integration of the Theatre Arts Program on the Barat Campus into The Theatre School has proven to be more complex than originally anticipated in administrative and support terms. The initial plan for the program is to keep the curriculum and the production program separate from the Lincoln Park conservatory programs of TTS. Once we have incorporated the program structurally we can explore the beneficial points of intersection between the various programs.

**Faculty:** a remarkable number of faculty are currently, or about to be involved in creative activities both locally and nationally; a Creative Activities Fund has been created in order to help in the hiring of replacement faculty for these projects. Internships for students continue apace. A Professional Connections Fund has also been established to bring in professionals in theatre to meet with and conduct workshops for our students and faculty and a Faculty/Staff Development Fund helps faculty and staff attend conferences and workshops. Work continues with Academic Affairs to facilitate 5-week leaves for creative activities and there has been some adjustment the School culture of the three quarter length classes allowing for the flexibility necessary for creative/research work. Dramatic progress has been made in this area.

The 5 Week Faculty Leave pilot program proposed by TTS has been approved by Academic Affairs. As mentioned above, resources for supporting connections to the profession are in place. More work remains to be accomplished in creating flexibility in faculty responsibilities to provide the opportunity for professional work in all areas with the least disruption of the ongoing training. In addition, guidelines for the balance between professional work outside the school and the responsibilities within the school will need to be created/adjusted.

“**Issues on which there is joint commitment to continue working**”
**Improved Data:** we have our very own SME who is working to set us up on the PeopleSoft advising program set to begin this fall. A personnel change in admissions has slowed down our progress in obtaining better admissions data, but the job description includes a requirement that our next admissions officer improve on our current data collection.

The job description of the Director of Admissions position (a search is currently underway) was changed to include tracking and interpreting student and prospect data to inform our admissions process. Our associate dean’s office will also be using more data to evaluate various aspects of our programs.

**Intra-university Collaboration:** explorations with SNL, the Master of Public Service program and Education are ongoing regarding a number of possible collaborations. Currently, projects with the German Department and the Music School are in progress, and discussion continues around curricular possibilities in Music and Theatre. Last year the Theatre School collaborated with the Cultural Center, the Humanities Center, the Center for Black Diaspora and the Women’s Center to present a performance by visiting professor Ntozake Shange at the Dusable Museum. A production of THE MONUMENT was produced this fall at The Victory Gardens Theater expressly for the faculty/staff/students of DePaul.

**Facilities:** nothing new here except a continuing serious need for adequate facilities to do all of which we are required to do.

It is our effort to explore every avenue toward an appropriate new facility. To date, much of this work has not involved the faculty of the school. Facilities are the greatest need for the school.

**Note:** Over a weekend in mid-September, the Theatre School faculty and staff met to discuss our strategic plan for the next seven years. Much of what we discussed embraces, clarifies and energizes the issues contained in the MOA. Embracing our past, examining our present and anticipating our future, we are continuing the self-study work of the last two years and moving to concretize the kinds of changes we think will improve us.