As a result of the fourth cycle of DePaul University's Academic Program Review Process (Cycle 4), 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 (2002-2003)**

1. **Implement guidelines for selection of new projects.** The Center will complete the development of and implement policies to guide the selection of new projects. The intent is to streamline and formalize the current process by which community initiatives and research projects are chosen. The guidelines outline checkpoints for deciding whether or not to take on new projects, according to the Center’s mission, resources, areas of expertise, and available leadership.

2. **Open Faculty Research Center.** The Egan Urban Center will officially open a new Faculty Research Center and Database in the Fall of 2002 at the Lincoln Park Campus. This Center will provide a new opportunity and resources for research on urban issues. The Center already has faculty involved in projects connected with the center and is in the process of setting up the database for faculty and community to use; the Center will begin by making available existing databases such as those on the Empowerment Zones and on Immigration in Chicago. Through the CTC grants, the donation of Microsoft.NET software and training, and the Dean of LA&S’s support for lab expansion, the Center has twenty state-of-the-art workstations and a server with, the capacity to house multiple databases. The Egan Center will announce the opening of the Research Center in the fall of 2002. The Egan Urban Center will pursue funding to support technical staff to help faculty manipulate the data.

3. **Develop assessment methods.** The Center will develop and implement appropriate methods to evaluate the success of its initiatives. Currently, the EUC staff and programmatic activities are guided by the stipulations of the various national and local, public and private funding agencies. Generally, the granting agencies require external evaluations to determine the extent to which the projects achieve promised goals and objectives. Also, the research into the university/community partnerships and community development practices funded by the Ford Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation requires several reports. The EUC is also held accountable by its community partners in the quality of the services and technical assistance it provides; they provide feedback on whether the Center’s activities result in tangible benefits to their constituents. This feedback is received through both formal reviews of the Center’s activities and informal dialogues with our partners and collaborators. As part of its strategic planning process, the Center has already interviewed its stakeholders to get feedback on the effectiveness of some of its projects. The Center will analyze this data more thoroughly, and will begin a more systematic evaluation process. The Center will also begin to more formally document its activities to provide evidence of success which can be shared with its funders and with various publics.

4. **Stabilize core funding.** EUC relies on grants for most of its core budget, with most of the funding coming from the CTC grant. In the coming year, the Center will look for ways to sustain this level of funding. The Center will seek additional funding for certain aspects of its academic and community activities to supplement existing grants, with the focus being the sustainability of newly-implemented projects. The EVP noted that the Center is in an position to build on its
success, and that some of the synergies that are occurring among EUC and other centers with an urban focus can be leveraged to secure additional funding from foundations/corporations.

5. **Reconsider mission within larger context of DePaul urban initiatives.** The EVP notes that the center is in a good position to redefine its mission in relation to other urban initiatives currently underway at DePaul. The Center’s work involves overlapping projects and interests throughout the university; while the Center used to operate relatively autonomously, it now has long-standing, mutually-dependent interactions with a wide range of entities.
   a. As part of its ongoing strategic planning, the Center will consider redefining its mission and role, given its increasing involvement with other urban initiatives. The EVP suggested that the Center build on the success it has had with its technology initiative, which is developing synergy with the president’s Digital Divide Project, and think about its role as providing technical training and research as a way to empower communities. The director is committed to giving a more formal definition of the Center’s new role and to more formally structuring the EUC’s relationship to other projects. The director notes that this commitment will begin with a better articulation of the existing ways in which the center has worked within the university over the past five years.
   b. The Egan Urban Center and the EVP for Academic Affairs will form a task force to examine how all DePaul’s urban initiatives may work together. This task force will develop a comprehensive strategy to give a rationale, structure, and cohesion to multiple efforts so that DePaul can be more effective in building on the success of and addressing challenges that face these individual projects.

### Issues on which there is joint commitment to continue working

6. **Seeking larger-scale, long-term core funding.** While the Center raised the issue of seeking an endowment, the EVP noted that DePaul has not had great success in the past in generating endowments, therefore immediate success in this endeavor for the Egan Urban Center is not likely. Endowment opportunities are long in cultivating. The EVP notes that the redefinition of the Center’s mission and work as part of a larger urban-related community outreach and research effort at the University level (see #5 above) may lead to some possibilities in seeking larger-scale funding. In the meantime, the Center will continue to explore opportunities for securing external funds for both academic and community activities, and will work with Development to generate a list of known and/or possible funders.

7. **Faculty incentives.** The Center recognizes the need to provide incentives to faculty to support their involvement in the Center’s research and community activities. The Center would like to focus on building relationships with senior faculty whose work in Egan Center initiatives could bring visibility to the Center through publications. The EVP suggested the possibility of creating a Fellows Program (institutionalized through external funding) to provide money for faculty research connected with the Center’s initiatives. The EVP notes that the Center could build on its work with external partners to leverage funding to provide faculty incentives and is committed to assisting the Center in finding ways to support faculty involvement in the Center.

8. **Space issues.** The Center notes that it’s small space on the Lincoln Park campus limits its effectiveness. The EVP is aware of the need for more space. While a short-term solution is being implemented in the construction of new space at Lincoln Park, the EVP notes that the issue of space will need to be addressed in the long-term, with an eye toward fostering collaboration among multiple centers with a focus on urban initiatives. The EVP is committed to working with the Center to resolve space issues.

### University-level Issues and Commitments

During Cycle 4, the Centers & Institutes’ individual self-studies raised several issues that have important implications for all Centers & Institutes, and which require action at the university level. These issues will be discussed in further detail at a meeting with the Centers & Institutes Advisory Board, the APRC Chair,
the Associate Vice President and the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. Commitments and actions arising from that meeting’s discussion will be documented in a General Memorandum of Agreement for all Centers & Institutes.

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A hard copy of this document was signed by:

Center Director

Chair of APRC Subcommittee

Chair of APRC

Dean of the College

Associate 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.