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. *Develop a Strategic Plan.* In the coming year, the Center will develop a strategic plan that will formally revise and articulate the Center's goals for growth, direction of programming and integration within the University community, as well as within the larger Chicago-metropolitan community.
   a. In anticipation of developing a strategic plan, the Center will develop a mechanism to solicit and collect information from the current Advisory Board. The information will be used as part of the process toward reconfiguring the Advisory Board and its function. The Center will consider broadening representation on the Advisory Board to reflect the university-wide audience of the Women’s Center.
   b. To inform plans for future programming and activities, the Center will collect and analyze information (e.g. through questionnaires) about the different groups of people who participate in Women’s Center programs, such as faculty, staff, students, community members.
   c. The strategic plan will examine the resources currently available to the Center and evaluate whether these resources and the expanded activities of the Center are compatible, and whether priorities should be set among the center’s current and future possible activities, in terms of subject matter and/or of audience.
   d. As part of its commitment to the urban community, the Center will work to provide advocacy on women’s issues by developing and maintaining a network of community resources.
   e. The Center will confer with representatives of the Office of Academic Affairs about where it is best located within the university structure, given its mission.
   f. The Center will clarify with its home unit any expectations concerning its seeking external funds, its generating funds from its programming, and any expectations concerning contributions to the University.

2. *Form Community Partnerships.* In the coming year, the Center will work to form partnerships with groups in the community to focus on women’s issues, with the understanding that these outreach efforts need to be focused and prioritized given the Center’s limited resources.
   a. Joint efforts with other DePaul groups. The Center will continue conversations with other departments, centers, and institutes within the University regarding possible collaboration on community outreach programs. The Center will also have conversations with the College of Law, the Office of Community-Based Service Learning regarding the possibility of developing a joint project on the issue of domestic violence. The Center may also consult with Charles Strain on developing fundable programs for the Steans Challenge in conjunction with these other groups.
   b. Partnership guidelines. To maintain the quality of its programs, the Center will develop guidelines when entering into collaborative partnerships with organizations and entities outside the University. These guidelines will insure that DePaul University’s mission,
values, and the Vincentian perspective are clearly articulated within and incorporated into all activities and collaborations.

3. **Monitor the Center’s Activities.** The Center will continue to evaluate and monitor the quality of its programs on an ongoing basis and routinely share what it learns with the unit to which it reports.
   a. When programs develop into ongoing projects, the Center will explore ways to develop a process for monitoring and assessing outcomes and efficacy.
   b. The Center will more clearly document how its programs, projects, and improvements are developed on the basis of feedback and input received from the communities it serves, which will be reflected in the annual report.

4. **Internal Collaboration.**
   a. The Women’s Center will collaborate with other Centers in order to maximize the use of limited resources and to prevent programming overlap.
   b. When possible, the Women’s Center will share its yearly calendar of activities to prevent programming overlap and competition with the same audience. The possibility of having a central, university-wide calendar for all Centers & Institutes’ programming will be discussed with the Centers & Institutes Advisory Board and Academic Affairs at the General Memo of Agreement meeting (see university-level issues below).

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

1. **Staffing, space, and facilities.** The Center will develop models to illustrate needed staffing patterns and space usage in anticipation of developing the Center’s Strategic Plan.
   a. The Center currently has adequate office space in the Student Center at Lincoln Park campus but will develop models to illustrate the best use of this space to support programs.
   b. The Center will consider expanding its activities to the Loop campus, but understands there are resource limitations. The Center may work with Loop-based centers to offer a few occasional programs or special events there on a trial basis to determine the need and potential audience at the Loop Campus.

1. **Coordination with DePaul’s schools and departments.** The Women’s Center will continue to explore ways to integrate women’s issues in the DePaul curriculum. In conjunction with faculty members in the disciplines, the Center will continue efforts to develop courses within disciplines like Women’s Studies, Latin American/Latino Studies that would integrate advocacy issues and concerns within the broader discipline areas, including community-based service learning.

**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.
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.*