DePaul University Academic Program Review

Cycle 5: Spring 2002--Spring 2003

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT -- MAY 2003

Catholic Studies Program

As a result of the fifth cycle of DePaul University's Academic Program Review Process (Cycle 5), 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.

University Commitments to Cycle Five Units:

1) Academic and Career Advising:
   a) The University will look into providing institutional assistance for graduate/professional school preparation in terms of offering standardized test preparation programs.
   b) The University will look into implementing advising alerts through Campus Connect that encourage students to contact their advisors prior to enrolling in courses.

2) Diversity:

   Consistent with the University’s mission, DePaul University remains strongly committed to promoting the diversity of faculty, students, and staff. Academic Affairs will support a variety of strategies developed by departments and programs.

University Commitments to Interdisciplinary Studies Programs:

1) Cross Referencing Courses:

   The University will look into having ARC (the Advising Resource Center) identify department courses that count for credit in various interdisciplinary studies programs and cross-referencing those courses in Campus Connect under interdisciplinary program headings. This then is hoped to increase student awareness of course options in the Interdisciplinary Studies Programs.

College Commitments to the Catholic Studies Program:

1) The Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences pledges to provide support to the Catholic Studies program in the form of assistance in the marketing of the program and in allowing additional staffing.

Actions agreed upon for the coming academic year:

1) Revision/Creation of Mission Statement and Learning Goals

   The Catholic Studies Program will review and revise its existing mission statement as necessary and where appropriate articulate the program’s learning goals. Learning goals will be stated in a manner consistent with the creation of criteria and standards for assessment.

2) Evaluation of Curriculum

   Curricular review will be implemented by the program in order to remove never/no longer offered
courses from the bulletin, update the curriculum where necessary, fill in gaps such as ethnicity and/or
the global community and Catholicism, and to develop areas of concentration within the program.

Criteria for the inclusion of courses taught by other departments that qualify for Catholic Studies credit
will be specified in order to ensure that the content will address the goals of the CS program.
Distinctly Catholic Studies core courses will be specified and 300 level courses will be proposed to the
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for the 2004 - 2005 academic year.

3) Governance

A faculty group, a curriculum committee, and an advisory board will be created or rejuvenated in order
to relieve the program director of some responsibilities and to create a sense of faculty ownership of
the program. Faculty with an interest or existing involvement in Catholic Studies will be invited to
join and quarterly meetings will be held.

The unit’s constitution and by-laws will be examined to determine if revision is necessary with regard
to inclusiveness, criteria for a course to be taught within the program, and formal decision making
procedures for affecting changes.

4) Assessment of Student Learning

The Catholic Studies Program will work with the Office of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment to
develop appropriate strategies for assessing student learning in relationship to the CS programs goals.

5) Catholic Studies Visibility

A plan will be created and implemented to increase the visibility of the Catholic Studies program
through the website, events, collaborations with student groups, incorporating service learning courses
into curriculum when feasible, and possibly summer programs. Additionally, PeopleSoft will be used
to identify and track majors already within the department.