DePaul University Academic Program Review

Cycle 6: Spring 2003–Spring 2004

Memorandum of Agreement – November 2004

Arts and Literature Domain

As a result of the sixth cycle of DePaul University's Academic Program Review Process (Cycle 6), 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.

Common items for the Liberal Studies Program:

Domain goals and learning outcomes:

Each Advisory Committee will articulate its specific goals, consistent with the DePaul Learning Goals, and will then derive from them assessable expected student-learning outcomes which are to be included in all unit syllabi. This task is to be completed according to a schedule to be provided by the LSC and/or its chair so that the LSC can approve these goals and outcomes by June 2005.

Writing standards:

Each Advisory Committee will determine the acceptable amount and type of writing to be required in its courses, taking into consideration the variety of courses offered in that domain, and being sure that such assignments are sensitive to and consistent with the students’ prior and/or concurrent writing experience and preparation, including the first year writing course(s). This task is to be completed according to a schedule to be provided by the LSC and/or its chair so that the LSC can approve these standards by June 2005.

Quality control:

During the coming year, Liberal Studies Council will establish a sub-committee to consider ways to ensure the academic quality of LSP courses. While it remains the responsibility of Liberal Studies Council to set standards for rigor and challenge, this subcommittee will make recommendations to the LSC about mechanisms and processes to ensure those standards are maintained. As part of its recommendations, this committee will identify distinct roles for the advisory committees and contributing departments in carrying out their responsibilities in maintaining the quality of Liberal Studies courses. Once the Liberal Studies Council approves these recommendations, it will be the responsibility of the advisory committees to carry out the tasks assigned to them.

Actions agreed upon by the Arts and Literature Domain for the coming academic year (2004 – 2005):

1. Domain Consistency:
   a. The Arts and Literature Domain Advisory Committee will continue to refine the process of reviewing new course proposals, including the process of educating and assisting faculty in proposal creation and revision. The committee’s goal is to enhance consistency and coherence across the domain and ensure that its learning outcomes are being addressed.
   b. The Committee will require that all syllabi for courses that satisfy the Arts and Literature requirement incorporate a statement of the domain’s learning goals and outcomes, once
outcomes are articulated.

c. When domain learning outcomes are articulated (see 1b) the Committee will meet with department chairs and potential course proposers to communicate the requirements regarding syllabi and the process for submitting proposals.

2. Best Practices:

a. The Advisory Committee will annually host Best Practices meetings for the purpose of improving faculty development and improving communication. Possibilities include sharing exemplary syllabi, discussing expectations of proposals and courses in the domain, and ways to integrate Writing across the Curriculum into domain courses.

3. Resource Allocation:

a. The Arts and Literature Domain Advisory Committee will propose to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the EVP for Academic Affairs that existing teaching spaces be retrofitted to enhance student learning. This proposal will include the ability to darken rooms (through blackout shades and preferably the ability to turn off lights in an individual room) in McGraw Hall in order to use a variety of visual teaching aids.

b. The Advisory Committee of the Arts & Literature Domain requests that when planning new construction that the Campus Planning Committee consider the allocation of resources for the specific needs of the Arts and Humanities. Students taking courses in these areas would benefit from additional studio, practice, and rehearsal space. They would also benefit from increased access to technology, film, and library resources. Finally, the Advisory Committee will seek support for student attendance at performances and for visiting artists, scholars, and writers.

Signed:

Advisory Committee Chair: __________________________________________

APRC Subcommittee: ________________________________________________

Chair of APRC: ____________________________________________________

Associate Dean, Liberal Arts and Sciences: ______________________________

Dean of the College: ________________________________________________

Associate V.P. for Academic Affairs: _________________________________

Executive V.P. for Academic Affairs: _________________________________