DePaul University Academic Program Review

Cycle 6: Spring 2003—Spring 2004

Memorandum of Agreement -- December 2004

Chicago Quarter

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 Chicago Quarter for the coming academic year (2004 – 2005):

1. Rigor:

   a. The Advisory Committee will work to increase the consistency and where necessary the rigor of Chicago Quarter courses by implementing minimum reading requirements. Determine the minimum amount of reading required for various types of texts.

   b. The Committee will explore and implement ways to bridge the perceived gap between Common Hour material and discipline-specific course content. The Committee will
consider the use a common reading assignment in the Common Hour which will also integrate the pragmatic goals of the Common Hour with the overall goals of Discover and Explore Chicago courses.

2. Learning Goals and Assessment:
   a. The learning goals for this domain will be refined by its Advisory Committee to make its uniqueness as an introduction to college level learning more evident.
   b. The Chicago Quarter Advisory Committee will consider adopting oral communication as a domain goal. Should oral communication be adopted, the Committee will develop assessable learning outcomes for this goal.
   c. The Advisory Committee will collaborate with the Office of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment to determine ways to quantify data concerning the achievement of the Chicago Quarter’s learning goals; particularly, those of the Common Hour.

3. Pedagogy:
   a. The Advisory Committee will determine ways to increase the percentage of classes whose service site/work is closely related to the subject matter of the course.
   b. The Chicago Quarter Advisory Committee will encourage group-based learning. The Committee will consider mandating this form of learning in course proposals and/or making group-based learning a learning goal, with assessable outcomes, as the ability of the Chicago Quarter to engage students in this type of learning is one of its distinctive features.

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: ______________________________