DePaul University Academic Program Review

Cycle 6: Spring 2003–Spring 2004

Memorandum of Agreement -- November 2004

Quantitative Reasoning

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 their 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 Quantitative Reasoning for the coming academic year (2004 – 2005):

1. Curricular Issues
   a. The Quantitative Reasoning Advisory Committee will work closely with the Scientific Inquiry domain to determine the extent to which ISP 120 is serving the needs of this domain and to plan further articulation and coordination.
   b. The Advisory Committee will continue collaboration with CTI and the Mathematics department in designing a mathematical and technological literacy sequence which will
increase the level of challenge to students in the Liberal Studies Program while continuing to support students who enter DePaul with deficiencies in these areas.

2. Instructional Issues:

   a. The Quantitative Reasoning Advisory Committee will pilot instructional approaches to percentages using activity-based instruction (including data-based computer activities) to continue addressing concerns regarding student ability to solve complex percentage problems in context.

   b. The Advisory Committee will assess student learning of complex percentage problems.

3. Enrollment and Prerequisite Issues

   a. The Committee will collaborate with the Academic Resource Center and relevant college offices to increase knowledge of the Quantitative Reasoning exam, which can exempt students from ISP 120. Through this collaboration and other appropriate steps reduce the number of students who, on their course evaluations, indicate being over-prepared for the course from 8% to 4% within the next two years.

   b. The Quantitative Reasoning Advisory Committee will determine current levels of upper classmen taking ISP 120 and investigate the reasons for their having delayed taking this course. If appropriate, the Committee will develop a plan to reduce the numbers of students who wait until their junior or senior year to take ISP 120.

   c. The Advisory Committee will determine if students are enrolling in Quantitative Reasoning without taking the required prerequisite, as determined by the math placement test. If appropriate, the Committee will investigate the relationship between taking ISP 120 with and without the prerequisite, and student success in the course.

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: