Actions agreed upon by the Scientific Inquiry Domain for the coming academic year (2004 - 2005):

1. Clarify Course Criteria:
   a. The Scientific Inquiry Advisory Committee will ensure that syllabi articulate the domain’s learning goals and outcomes, and that the faculty understand what the courses are to accomplish.

   **Actions:** The Scientific Inquiry Domain (SID) committee has contacted department chairs and program directors at the beginning of each quarter to remind them of the SID learning goals and outcomes. Additionally, the Liberal Arts & Sciences dean’s office has begun contacting individual faculty to remind them of the same. Syllabi review is occurring as part of the assessment process and is now a part of a systematic process occurring with all Liberal Study domains.

   b. The Advisory Committee for the Scientific Inquiry Domain will, with the advice of Scientific Inquiry faculty, clarify the domain’s **Criteria for Inclusion** with respect to student requirements for each course component (quantitative, laboratory, and elective) and create customized criteria for each component.

   **Actions:** The SID committee has not yet clarified the **Criteria for Inclusion.** The main reason for this is that the re-working of the learning goals and outcomes took longer than anticipated. We could not clarify the criteria until we had a clear set of learning goals and outcomes. The learning goals and outcomes were approved by Liberal Studies Council in academic year 2005-2006, and one of the main tasks of the SID committee during academic year 2006-2007 will be to clarify the **Criteria for Inclusion.**

2. Quality Issues
   a. The Advisory Committee will open and maintain lines of communication with faculty who teach in the Scientific Inquiry Domain and the Chairs of their departments to receive feedback and ensure that any concerns about the domain are being met.

   **Actions:** As noted above, the SID committee has communicated with Chairs about the learning goals and outcomes. Due to lack of time and staff, we have not communicated as well with individual faculty. As stated above, the Dean’s office has now begun an effort to inform all SI faculty about the learning goals and outcomes. We have not been able to develop an easy way for faculty to share their concerns with the SI committee. We hope that being able to access our web site will allow us to develop a forum for this communication. Access is not yet available, but we have been told that we should expect it soon.

   b. The Committee will host an annual Scientific Inquiry faculty meeting to discuss issues of concern and solicit feedback.

   **Actions:** We have held one such meeting and will hold one again during academic year 2006-2007. A yearly meeting may be over ambitious given the time constraints of the committee.
3. Quantitative Reasoning:

   a. The Advisory Committee will initiate discussions with academic advisors across the University to ensure that students who are required to take ISP 120 have completed this requirement prior to taking Scientific Inquiry courses. Further, advisors will be asked to inform students of the benefits of taking their Scientific Inquiry courses fairly soon after ISP 120.

   **Actions:** Both of these actions have been done. We are continuing to work with advisors to ensure that students take ISP 120 and that SI courses follow soon after.

   b. The Scientific Inquiry Advisory Committee will collaborate with the Quantitative Reasoning Advisory Committee with regard to revisions to ISP 120 and/or the creation of a new course structure.

   **Actions:** The SI committee has shared some information with the QR committee. However, this has been sporadic and a more concerted effort is needed to ensure that students continue to be properly prepared for SI courses.

4. Assessment:

   a. The Advisory Committee will communicate domain assessment results at the annual Scientific Inquiry faculty meeting with an eye toward course improvement.

   **Actions:** The assessment results have been communicated to the faculty during the meeting. Assessment results are also passed to department chairs.