DePaul University Academic Program Review

Cycle 7: Spring 2004--Spring 2005

Memorandum of Agreement – October 2005

Steans Center for Community-based Service Learning

I. Assessment of Community-based Service Learning (CbSL) Courses

A. Faculty Assessment

i. The Steans Center will complete development and implementation of a faculty assessment tool for the purpose of allowing faculty members a way to provide anonymous insights into CbSL courses including benefits, uses, and challenges.

B. Assessment of Learning Outcomes

i. The Steans Center will articulate the distinctive aspects of service learning that are emphasized in DePaul’s CbSL courses, and the outcomes expected of these courses.

ii. The Steans Center will explore the adequacy of current student learning assessment techniques using the results of the assessment strategy developed for the Department of Education, FIPSE (Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education) Grant “Bringing It Home: Linking Foreign and Domestic Study Through Language Immersion and Service-Learning.”

iii. The Steans Center will determine if it has identified the best ways to assess student learning outcomes that are particular to service learning, while not excluding assessment of other ways that the CbSL pedagogy benefits students.

II. Faculty Development

A. Pedagogy

i. The Steans Center will continue to work with faculty on how best to articulate for students and/or to help students discover for themselves the complex connections between the service learning aspects of the courses and the more traditional classroom/text-based aspects.

B. Professional

i. The Steans Center will explore the potential costs and benefits of publishing a scholarly volume regarding the service learning pedagogy as it is integrated with teaching and research associated with the Center.
III. Collaborations

A. Loop campus

i. The Steans Center will continue to work with the Colleges of Commerce and CTI to develop and offer more CbSL courses on the Loop campus. Conversations and consultations will be held with faculty, staff, administrators, and other appropriate parties about possible CbSL courses in order to enhance the likelihood of such courses having adequate enrollment and to encourage faculty from those colleges to teach CbSL courses.

ii. University Internship Program (UIP)

1. To the extent that it is jointly beneficial, Director of the Steans Center for CbSL will, with the Director of UIP, seek to have conversations to promote the exchange of information and to collaborate for the purpose of program enhancement. Topics may include, but are not limited to, faculty development, marketing to students, promoting faculty and advisor education regarding experiential learning and the similarities and the differences between the two programs. As necessary, the AVP for Academic Affairs will facilitate conversations and initiatives that may result from these conversations.

Signatures:

[Signatures and dates]

EVP for Academic Affairs  Date

AVP for Academic Affairs  Date

Unit AVP  Date

APRC Chair  Date

APRC Subcommittee Representative  Date

Unit Committee Representative  Date