As two of the four full-time department members were off-campus during the fall semester and another was a new hire, we are using this opportunity to update our assessment plan that was submitted on 23 September 2005.

We have three areas of assessment data that we would like to analyze more closely.

1. We now have a three year series of senior surveys that report our graduating students’ self-assessments of how well they have achieved the departmental learning goals. The first year 2003 can be found in appendix A of our January 2004 Program Review and Assessment report. Now that we have more than one year of data, we would like to analyze it more closely to identify any consistent patterns of strength or weakness. We already know that quantitative analytical ability continues to be reported as low relative to other outcomes. We would like to analyze the data more closely to discover whether students in some tracks or with a particular mix of course are doing better than others. We also want to develop a specific plan for strengthening students’ ability in this area.

2. We will take the most recent set of final papers from the Spring 2005 senior seminar and read them for specific evidence of the departmental learning goals (which incorporate the college-wide standards). We will also compare the self-reports of the senior surveys with this evidence, again looking for patterns of strength or weakness.

3. We have been keeping a database of student attendance at activities for the extra-curricular departmental activities. We would like also to examine that data to see the patterns of events students are attending as well as the degree to which they are spreading out their attendance across their career as majors or are “bunching” up in their last semester.