This report highlights our sense of progress on particular elements of program assessment since our program review assessment plan was submitted to the Program Review Committee in January 2004. It names departmental goals and considers evidence of student progress and questions to be addressed regarding implementation of the plan. It also discusses parts of the plan to be implemented during 2005-2006. A report on the progress toward accomplishment of the elements of program assessment will be submitted in January 2006.

I. DEPARTMENTAL GOALS AND MISSION

We have named our departmental goals in our 2000 self-study and identify them for students in course syllabi. We seek to develop
1. Graduates ready to serve others through economics and business skills
2. Majors who are seeking God’s call and understand the role of the Christian in our economic system.
3. Majors who participate as junior scholars in the activity of the academy.
4. Graduates who are flexible, independent, confident, broadly educated.
5. Graduates who have people skills, problem solving and analytical skills, and communication skills.

During the 2005-2006 academic year we will continue to review and possibly revise these goals. We continue to wrestle with questions regarding the connection between these goals and our departmental identity. We are currently at work on a departmental definition and vision statement.

II. IDENTIFYING SOURCES OF EVIDENCE AND PLANS FOR USE OF EVIDENCE TO EVALUATE PROGRESS TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL GOALS

We are drawing upon several sources of evidence to assess students’ progress toward achievement of the EB departmental goals. We are in the process of surveying EB alumni currently. We are also requiring our current students to engage in self-assessment. In a number of courses, we are beginning to implement required self-reflection with respect to the student learning outcomes. An example is requiring students to complete an initial feedback form regarding their desired learning objectives and an assignment at the end of the semester involving self-reflection about learning outcomes with respect to the course and how the Christian faith speaks to this particular area of economics and/or business. We will discuss this evidence and its implications for our progress towards departmental goals.
III. ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2005-2006

The 2005 survey of EB alumni utilizes many of the same questions relied upon in a 1992 survey regarding graduate degrees earned, academic areas in which the alum would desire more preparation, participation in Christian ministry/service, access to faculty in the department, and other areas. This will enable some important comparisons to be made between the two surveys. The recent survey results will be discussed at regular departmental meetings with respect to strengths and weaknesses of the program and possible program changes.

To directly communicate with students our departmental goals and changes in the EB curriculum, early in Fall 2005 we will have an open meeting for all declared EB majors and other students interested in the major. The meeting will highlight our new faculty addition (Professor Carter Crockett) and his areas of emphasis within the business field. We will also overview required courses in the major and changes in the EB curriculum.

In the January 2006 report, we will overview the departmental discussion regarding curriculum change for the major. We have made adjustments in the required quantitative courses in the major, including dropping the finite math option, and then requiring an additional EB course to fulfill the requirements for the major for those students not taking calculus (in addition to EB 18). We will discuss the reasons for this and other possible changes, naming the benefits from this change and suggesting expected outcomes from curriculum change.

We also are submitting a revision of our Senior Seminar syllabus for the Competent and Compassionate Action: Integrating the Major Discipline section of the GE curriculum. We aim to make more explicit links in the coursework to the desired ends of critical inter-disciplinary thinking and ethical reflection characteristic of a Christian liberal arts education.

To foster further exposure to contemporary economics and business issues, we are initiating an Economics and Business speaker series. Our first speaker this fall semester will be Sir Patrick Duffy, former member of the House of Commons in the British Parliament, who will present a lecture for the Westmont community on “The Future of the European Union.” Future speakers for 2005-2006 will likely address issues of the interconnection between trade and global poverty relief and the ties between globalization and environmental standards.