

***Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) Action Project:  
Graduate Studies Division Governance and Oversight***

***September , 2007***

**1. Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current status of this Action Project.**

With the inauguration of its new President in July 2006, the college undertook an initiative to evaluate the "Common Work" of Augsburg's faculty, staff, and administration. This initiative focused on transparent practices in organizational governance. Thus, the 2006-2007 academic year brought with it a new administrative structure in the Academic Affairs Division which included the position of Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Programs. This position was filled by Dr. Rosemary Link and she took office on September 1, 2007. She will continue the work of this Action Project.

Some progress was made on the creation of a Graduate Programs Catalog, but it was not completed during the last year of the action project. Furthermore, additional questions about the administrative alignments in Augsburg's graduate programs remain to be answered. Two important issues are the reporting relationships of graduate program directors, both within the division and within their academic departments and the role of the Graduate Council. With a new Dean in place, we will extend this action project for one additional year in order to fully to complete the objectives of this action project.

**2. Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action Project.**

The primary players in the accomplishment of graduate programs oversight at Augsburg continue to be the members of the Graduate Council. In their roles as graduate program directors, these members remain committed and active participants in program review and oversight. In addition, graduate faculty have been engaged in questions about practices that can bring greater strength and quality to graduate education at Augsburg. This emphasis is evidenced by the graduate faculty retreats and book clubs that have taken place each year since 2005. These events have been funded by the Center for Teaching and Learning.

**3. Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project.**

The Graduate Council and the Vice President for Academic Affairs agree on four goals for the coming year: 1) Completion of the graduate catalog; 2) Alignment of graduate programs directors with other administrative structures in the Academic

Affairs division; 3) Establishment of common academic policies across programs (e.g., admissions, appeal process); 4) Participation in governance aspects of The Augsburg for Adults Commission. These events have been sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Longer-term goals include market explorations leading to the inception of two new graduate programs within three to five years.

**4. Describe any "effective practice(s)" that resulted from your work on this Action Project.**

The graduate division has been successful in its continuing reassessment of governance structures, reporting practices, and review of programmatic resource needs. Individual graduate program directors have taken an active role in this continuous review and have worked closely with the Vice President for Academic Affairs to ensure that new resources are provided to enable continuing growth and improvement within their programs.

One "effective practice" has been holding faculty retreats and book clubs. The retreats focus on faculty sharing pedagogies that are appropriate for adult learners. The book clubs involve faculty reading books about strategies for teaching adult learners and issues surrounding graduate education. The content of these events are documented.

**5. What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project?**

As Augsburg continues to expand and improve its graduate programs, it will need to continue adding resources, especially faculty, in order that current faculty, staff, and budgets are not unduly stretched. These additional resources appear to be well warranted by the continuing expansion of graduate education at the College.

Another challenge we face is to institutionalize the graduate programs. We need to seek opportunities for the campus community to make connections between undergraduate and graduate programs.