# Memorandum of Understanding

MA in Global Logistics Program
Department of Economics
College of Liberal Arts
December 1, 2006

This Memorandum of Understanding outlines the consensus reached by the Department of Economics, the college of Liberal Arts, and the Division of Academic Affairs, based on the recently conducted program review. It describes the goals to be achieved, and the actions to be undertaken by all parties to this MOU to achieve these goals, during the next program review cycle. Progress toward goals is to be addressed in the annual report.

The review of the pilot MA in Global Logistics revealed a program that has rapidly made progress since its inception five years ago. The external reviewer commented on the program’s proven ability to fulfill the academic demands of this interdisciplinary field and to provide students with a structure that facilitates their learning. The internal reviewers also commented on the program’s dedicated leadership, collegial faculty, and strong administrative support that give it the ability to meet the demand in this field. Both sets of reviewers recommended the program apply for permanent status.

Concerns emerging from the program review include these issues.

1. Some curricular changes are in order, including more in-depth study of supply chain logistics through two courses instead of one, and extending students’ research projects past descriptive research to include the analysis of alternatives leading to program and/or policy recommendations.
2. Future faculty asked to teach in the program should include the faculty from outside the discipline of Economics who can contribute expertise in such areas as supply chain management (from business) and/or decision modeling for logistics systems (from engineering). These could be joint hires between Economics and other departments/colleges.
3. Student learning outcomes assessment could be strengthened with the addition of external advisory board to refine expected student learning outcomes and levels of student achievement; the collection of additional assessment information from direct measures (student work) and indirect measures (exit interviews); and the institution of meetings of all program faculty to review assessment information at the end of each cohort and to monitor student retention and graduation rates.

It is therefore agreed that:

1. The department will undertake curriculum revisions in light of the suggestions of the external reviewer.
2. The department will formalize its plan for assessment of student learning, implement the plan, and use the results for program improvement (to be reported in the annual report).
3. The department will regularly analyze data on retention and graduation of students in the M.A. in Global Logistics and use the results to examine the effectiveness of program delivery, advisement, and other student support activities.
4. The department will continue to recruit tenured and tenure-track faculty from the Colleges of Business and Engineering to sustain the interdisciplinary nature of the degree.

This MOU has been read and approved by:

Department Chair \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:

College Dean \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:

Assoc. Vice President \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: