I. Foster Increased Excellence in the Faculty

a. Restore the department’s **second non-Western faculty position to tenure-track**. This position had been a tenure-track position in African art. Unfortunately, the faculty member holding this position resigned to accept a job at Princeton University, and half the funding was lost. After a great deal of discussion, the Art History faculty decided to refocus this position on **East Asian art** (it is now a two-year fixed term position). This will build a greater undergraduate and graduate strength within the department, since this position will complement our other non-Western position in South/Southeast Asian and Islamic architecture and art (a tenure-track position). This departmental goal strongly resonates with the major College Goal II of “Preparing students to thrive in a global and diverse environment.”

b. Work with Development and the Capital Campaign to develop Art History’s **First Endowed Professorship**, to increase the prestige and productivity of our program.

c. Improve efforts at **fostering faculty research and publications** by:
   - Striving to fund as completely as possible **faculty travel** to conferences/symposia to present scholarly papers, chair sessions, and serve as respondents.
   - Continue the department’s commitment to a one-semester **release** from teaching for tenure-track faculty members who successfully pass their second-year review.
   - Encourage at least one faculty member per year to apply to the **Resident Scholar** program in the Institute for the Arts & Humanities.
   - Strongly encourage faculty to apply for **external funding** and make every effort possible to make major fellowships happen (allowing faculty member to be away from University Park to do research).
   - Refine and maximize the use of the George Dewey and Mary J. **Krumrine Endowment** to help in the publication of faculty scholarship in major refereed journals, significant scholarly presses, and exhibition catalogues published by the Palmer Museum of Art (and distributed by Penn State Press).

d. Encourage and recognize **interdisciplinary collaborations among faculty** in research and teaching, such as:
   - **Collaborative research** with scholars in other fields (i.e. Prof. Walters’ research in Egypt with Geoscientists; Prof. Smith’s research in Florence with an Architectural Engineer).
• Encourage greater involvement of Art History faculty in other departments (i.e. Prof. Desai has a courtesy appointment in Asian Studies; Prof. Rich and Prof. Locke doing crits and studio visits in the School of Visual Arts; our art/architectural historians participating in studio crits in the Department of Architecture).
• Continue to encourage our faculty to contribute to the IAH’s innovative “Moments of Change” programming, and to co-teach the Josephine Berry Weiss Interdisciplinary Humanities Seminar (i.e. Prof. Houghton and Prof. Locke have already participated).

e. Strive towards greater involvement by the Department, its Head and Faculty, in the Development process to seek the resources to realize our goals.

II. Foster Increased Excellence in the Graduate Program

a. Strengthen the graduate program by seeking increased support for graduate student research. The two Department of Art History Dissertation Fellowships per semester have had a major positive impact on our doctoral program. Work with Development and the Campaign to increase this funding, particularly during the summer. More funding is also needed for doctoral students who need to travel/research to develop a superior dissertation prospectus for the seeking of external grants.

b. Increase the opportunities for graduate students in art history for obtaining real work experience in the Palmer Museum of Art, such as through summer internships.

c. Strive to make the admission process into the graduate program more rigorous. All applicants to the graduate program will be reviewed by members of the Graduate Programs Committee and, when appropriate, by the relevant faculty member in the department (depending upon field). For those candidates short-listed for admission, a telephone interview will be conducted with at least one member of the graduate faculty before any admission decision is finalized. The Graduate Programs Committee will continue to conduct an annual review of all graduate students continuing or applying for departmental assistantships and University fellowships. Students not making acceptable progress will have assistantship/fellowship support terminated.

d. Increase the number of campus visits by prospective graduate students (through partial funding of their visits), particularly those offered admission.

e. By more diligent monitoring and advising by the faculty, as well as annual evaluations, to reduce the number of graduate students who do not stay on schedule in their progress towards their degrees, or do not finish their degrees.
f. Re-evaluate the role of the department’s Annual Graduate Student Symposium in the History of Art and Architecture. The end result should be an improvement of the quality of scholarship of our graduate students and to stimulate a greater participation of our students in scholarly conferences/symposia.

g. Encourage graduate students to present papers at significant national and international scholarly conferences/symposia, through mentoring and providing financial resources.

h. Seek funding to establish a Graduate Assistantship for the Summer Study Abroad Program in Todi, Italy. This will provide a tremendous opportunity for one of our students and help with the globalization of the program.

i. Continue to support and encourage the Graduate Student Association for Visual Culture, particularly in partnering together to bring in major guest speakers.

j. Possibly work with the CIC to develop a graduate seminar that is co-taught at two different campuses of the CIC (Big Ten + U. of Chicago).

e. To assist in assessment, better track the careers of our M.A.’s and Ph.D.’s after graduation.

III. Initiatives in Undergraduate Programs, Course Offerings & Diversity

a. Add new courses in fields of new faculty, particularly in South Asian architecture, East Asian art, and Renaissance/Baroque Architecture.

b. Review and update course offerings. Drop courses that are not routinely taught (typically once every two or three years). Add special topics courses that have been previously taught and will be taught on a regular basis in the future.

c. Review the organization and goals of ART H 350W, “Undergraduate Seminar in the History of Art.” This is the only course required of all majors, and is a senior capstone course to prepare our students for graduate school. Is it doing the job?

d. Encourage our top seniors, who are graduate school bound, to take a 500-level graduate seminar in their senior year, such as ART H 551, “The Historiography of Art History.” This will better prepare them for grad school.

e. Review the Minor in Art History and the Interdisciplinary Minor in Architectural History to update the requirements and course offerings.

f. Talk with Department of Architecture to see if there are educational advantages and faculty efficiencies to be gained by fostering greater cooperation between the
architectural theory courses taught in the Department of Architecture and the architectural history courses taught in the Department of Art History.

g. Possibly work with the Schreyer Honors College to develop more Honors Courses, and/or study abroad experiences.

h. Seek funds to continue the Christopher Frassinelli Memorial Scholarships to help support undergraduate majors in art history to attend the summer study abroad program in Todi, Italy.

i. Continue to foster the Undergraduate Art History Association and its role in creating a more student-oriented department for Art History majors and minors.

j. Continue to seek partial funding for bus trips to allow our students to visit major museums in large cities.

k. To assist in assessment, start to track the post-graduate careers of our B.A.’s, particularly those who go on to graduate school.

IV. Digital Initiatives & Facilities

a. The Visual Resources Centre (VRC) will continually improve its methods to produce, store, preserve, and deliver high-quality digital image resources for the Department of Art History, as well as continue to build access to the digital collection using CONTENTdm, the digital collection management software supported by the University Libraries, to make our images available to anyone with a Penn State user ID. We will seek increased support and better communication from the Libraries technical staff to keep CONTENTdm functional and up-to-date.

• Work towards greater communication with College of Arts & Architecture IT staff, and encourage their involvement and support of the VRC’s digital needs, including the maintenance of hardware and software (including appropriate periodic upgrades), routine color calibration of monitors and scanners, administration of reliable backup for images, and assistance in the use of CONTENTdm.

• The VRC staff will provide imaging instruction for faculty, students, and staff, including use of various image presentation tools (e.g. Powerpoint, ARTstor Offline Viewer) and imaging databases (e.g. ARTstor, CONTENTdm).

• Continue to maintain the existing slide collection, while phasing out the production of new analog slides. Proceed with the conversion of relevant materials from the analog collection and support new curricular needs through the creation of images in digital form.

• Collaborate with other College of Arts & Architecture units and their image collections to develop cooperative solutions to image collection development and management.
b. Continued quality improvement of the Department’s web site, to make it more user-friendly, visually appealing, and a stronger recruiting device. Be particularly vigilant at keeping the site up-to-date, which is one of the major charges of a new staff member.

c. Reassess the duties of the office’s Staff Assistant in relation to emerging technologies and the growing needs of the Visual Resources Centre.

d. Implement an e-learning version of ART H 111 (GA), “Ancient to Medieval Art.” A pilot version of this course will be taught spring semester 2009. Expansion of the course is planned for summer 2009, which hopefully will provide several new assistantships for our graduate students during the summer, when they are desperately needed. Consider adding a second e-learning General Education course.

e. Continue to seek better classrooms for our large enrollment courses at the 100- and 200-level. Some classrooms that were good for analog projection are not very good for digital projections. We have already moved some of our classes out of 10 Sparks to the Forum or Thomas Building. Negotiate with Scheduling and other departments to continue this process.

f. Maximize our use of the new facilities in Borland Building. The Department of Art History’s move in the summer of 2008 into Borland Building has represented a significant step upwards in the size, quality, and technology of our facilities. We are still waiting for several major improvements to the Seminar Room and Graduate Commons Study Area.