



4101 15th Avenue NE, JH-30
Seattle, Washington 98195
(206) 685-1660

Office of the Dean

November 21, 1997

Marsha Landolt, Dean
The Graduate School
University of Washington
Box 351240

Dear Marsha:

We are most appreciative of the thorough and positive Graduate School Review of the School of Social Work undergraduate and graduate degree programs. We believe that the review committee described our programs with accuracy and captured many of the challenges facing our School. We are especially pleased by the concluding paragraph that "the School of Social Work is emerging as one of the University's best programs. We believe it is worthy of investment for future growth and recommend that every effort be made to ensure its continuing success."

Although we agree overall with the Committee's recommendations, we do, however, have some comments for clarification and elaboration, as follows

- p 2, paragraph 2 The Review Committee also met with the Executive Committee
- p. 2, last paragraph The final exit meeting also included the Director of the Ph.D. Program and the Director of the BASW Program. For part of the meeting, the Dean of Undergraduate Education was also present
- p 3, paragraph 1. Although we are listed as sixth in the US News and World Report survey of 130 graduate programs, the numerical rankings actually tied us with two other Schools at the 4th, 5th and 6th positions. The ordering among these schools was then done alphabetically, placing the University of Washington as 6th among the three with the same numerical ranking
- p 3, paragraph 2. Approximately 65 students, not 55, are admitted each year to the BASW Program. Although the BASW program was cut in 1981, it has been gradually increasing in size, and new state funding was provided for the admission of 10 additional students per each year of the biennium for the 1997-99 biennium (20 students across the biennium). This included the funding of 1.0 FTE Assistant Professor, .25 FTE Practicum Coordinator (to increase the existing Practicum Coordinator's time from .75 to 1.00 FTE), and additional resources for Student Services for staffing the BASW Program. Therefore, the BASW program is growing in student size as well as resources allocated to it

- The Review Committee noted that among the BASW respondents to an alumni survey, only 41% were in social work positions, they also acknowledged the extremely low response rate to the survey. Although the fact that less than 50% of our graduates are employed in social work positions could be viewed as a cause for concern, the preparation of graduates for social work practice has never been the only program goal. We also aim to prepare graduates for entry into graduate school in social work or related fields as well as for other types of positions in which they can draw upon their social welfare knowledge and experience.
- p. 3, last paragraph: The average length of time to complete the day MSW program is six quarters, not seven. The full-time program is essentially a two-year program across two academic years. A small number of students meet their practicum requirement during the summer and therefore take seven quarters to complete the program.
- p. 4, paragraph 2: There is an implication that our faculty are not engaged in research unless they have received external funding. This is not the case. Nearly all our faculty are engaged in research and scholarship, whether funded or not. A smaller proportion receive external funding (currently 12 or 32 percent of our tenure-track faculty are PI's or co-PI's on externally-funded grants). Despite the increased emphasis upon securing funded research, it is important not to overlook the outstanding scholarly work performed by many faculty who do not have external funding.
- p. 5, paragraph 2: Our accrediting body is CSWE, not CSEW.
- p. 5, last paragraph: We are concerned by the lack of mention of doctoral students under the student strengths section of the report, this is puzzling to us, given the evidence which we provided regarding the marketability of our Ph.D. graduates, their involvement in leadership positions across the country, and the survey of deans and directors which underscored their recognition of our Ph.D. graduates as well trained and highly competitive. We assume that this was an oversight by the committee, but welcome the opportunity to discuss the strengths of our doctoral graduates when we meet with the Graduate Council in winter quarter 1998.
- p. 6, last paragraph: The NIMH-funded Center for Social Work Prevention Research was funded in 1997, the increase in externally-funded research was therefore evident before the funding of this Center.
- p. 7, top paragraph: The Social Development Research Group is an excellent example of collaborative interdisciplinary efforts, as cited by the team. However, it is also important to recognize the wide-range of other research units within the School involved in collaborative interdisciplinary efforts, including research projects headed by Drs. Gilchrist, Gillmore, Morrison, Nurius and Roffman.

- p 7, paragraph 4. In addition to the ways that the Review Committee has described how teaching is valued, teaching is a major criteria for promotion and tenure decisions
- p. 8, *Recommendations regarding the BASW Program* The Review Committee notes that the “program’s size has been reduced.” Although the BASW program was reduced in 1981, new state funding was provided in the 1997-99 biennium to expand the size of the student body, and to hire additional staff and faculty resources
- We wish to comment upon the statement, “none of the leading Schools of Social Work nationally maintain both a strong research emphasis and a BASW program ” From our perspective, this is a strength of our School In other words, we have effectively managed our resources to support the full continuum of social work education - BASW, MSW and Ph.D. - while still building a strong research enterprise Our peers, especially those rated among the top five by US News and World Report, have a larger permanent funding base, and fewer programs to administer The fact that we have managed to develop our research enterprise, while building and enhancing three quality programs and still be ranked sixth nationally, should be viewed as a major strength of our School. In other words, we have managed to achieve as much or more than many of our peers with far fewer permanent resources
- The Review Committee recommends consideration of the “advantages and disadvantages of moving the BASW program to the University’s branch campuses.” We would not want the BASW program moved off of the Seattle campus. It meets the needs of a growing number of students in Seattle, as indicated by the recent increase in program size and the growing application rate. Instead, we may consider the establishment of additional BASW programs at Tacoma or Bothell. For example, establishment of a BASW program in Tacoma might be a way to conceptualize the new MSW program there as an advanced standing program. In addition, preliminary surveys conducted by Louis Fox indicate the interest in a BASW program at Bothell or the Everett area. However, we wish to emphasize that these programs would be in addition to, not in place of, the BASW program in Seattle A more detailed needs assessment as well as employer survey are necessary before exploring whether to offer BASW programs outside the Seattle campus
- Since the time of the site visit, the BASW Program Director and faculty have already begun to address some of the recommendations made by the Review Committee For example, an academic advisor has been added to Student Services to better assist BASW students with understanding the requirements for completing the degree and may serve to reduce attrition and increase students’ identity with social work practice. The academic advisor works closely with faculty who have the primary role for advising students regarding career options, both in social work and related fields.
- *Recommendations regarding doctoral students*, p 9, paragraph 2: The committee recommends regular faculty colloquia to include doctoral students However, we already have ongoing monthly faculty colloquia to which the entire School, including

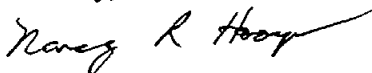
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Ph D. students, are invited. In fact, this is the third consecutive year in which the research colloquia series "Issues in Social Welfare" has been offered

- *Recommendations regarding the MSW Practicum* Obtaining additional faculty FTE's for practicum coordination has been our highest priority over the past five biennia, and will continue to be a priority in our 1999-2001 operating budget request.
- *Recommendations regarding the School's committee processes:* The School's Executive Committee is continuing to review the service issues within the School, including greater use of time-limited task forces or ad hoc committees rather than standing committees. We recently had a faculty presentation on effectively running professional meetings, and continue to seek ways to reduce the amount of time spent on internal governance, while still providing meaningful mechanisms for faculty, staff and student decision-making
- *Recommendations regarding space:* I am currently preparing our facilities plan for 1999-2001, which outlines the need for more space, even after the new addition is complete in 1999. The demand for space has increased even more since the time of the site visit, because of the recent funding of several new research and training projects, the growth of the Center for Social Work Prevention Research, and the additional faculty and staff FTE's supported by the new Distance Learning program. We appreciate the committee's recommendation in support of this critical need.

I hope that these additional points are useful to the Graduate Council and look forward to meeting with you and the Council in winter quarter

Sincerely,



Nancy R. Hooyman, Ph.D
Dean

cc: Margaret Spearmon, Director of BASW Program
Paula Nurius, Director of Ph D Program
Mary Gillmore, Associate Dean for Research
John Longres, Associate Dean for Academic Programs