

**Program Performance Review: Culmination Meeting Memo**  
**Social Work – M.S.**

The 2015-2016 Program Performance Review (PPR) process for Social Work-M.S. program concluded with a culmination meeting on October 28, 2016. The program submitted its disciplinary accreditation materials in lieu of the required PPR materials.

The following people attended the meeting: Anil Puri (Provost), Pamella Oliver (AVPAP), Laurie Rodes (Dean, HHD), Cindy Greenberg (Associate Dean, HHD), David Chenot (Chair), Juye Ji (Faculty), Michelle Martin (Faculty), and Su Swarat (Director of Assessment and Educational Effectiveness).

The Provost congratulated the Social Work-M.S. program for successfully meeting its national accreditation requirements. The program was commended for the significant accomplishments it has made during the last reaffirmation of accreditation period:

1. The program provides an outstanding curriculum and excellent educational experience for students, preparing them to work professionally as practitioners and as learners in the community.
  - The AVPAP highlighted the program’s ability to produce “learners”, in addition to “leaders”, particularly in the area of human rights. The “box city” project is an excellent venue for the students to connect with and learning from the community.
  - The Chair acknowledged the need and effort to involve students within the community, and provided the example of engaging students in a study that explores homelessness issue in Orange County.
  - The Dean commended the program for having a great reputation in the community, and having an active community advisory board.
2. The program has made a serious commitment to prepare professionals able to work effectively with a wide range of diverse populations, especially in Orange County and Southern California.
  - The Dean mentioned that the program has a 3-yr alternative program at the Irvine campus to serve the students who work full time. The Chair shared that the curriculum and assessment at the Irvine campus are identical to the Fullerton campus (though without the Aging concentration).
3. The program uses an integrative curriculum model.
  - The Dean commended the program for having impressive student involvement in research, with the outcome of several high quality research projects. The AVPAP stated that this level of faculty involvement in student research is an excellent example of the researcher-practitioner model.
4. The program places a notable focus on appreciating the diverse nature of the students in the program, and students commented on the unique contributions of the different minorities based on ethnicity, gender, age, sexual preferences, and religion.
  - The Dean commended the program for being an exceptional model for student diversity, which is lacking at the graduate level at the university.

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The major recommendations and concerns raised through the reaffirmation of accreditation process were discussed. Suggestions on how to address them were provided:

1. The program should ensure number of full-time faculty is consistently sufficient to meet student enrollment demand.
  - The Chair commented that the program is considered a medium sized program nationally. With several larger MSW programs in the area (e.g. USC, CSU-Long Beach), the program needs to consider the optimal size. The program currently has approximately 250 students. The CSWE requirement of a 12:1 Student-Faculty-Ratio is difficult to meet.
  - The program is striving to increase the number of full-time faculty. One new faculty member, Dr. Martin, was hired last year. Two faculty searches are currently ongoing.
2. The program should collaborate with university and college to ensure space needs are met.
  - The Chair voiced the concern of having faculty located on three separate floors in the EC building, which is not conducive to community building. The Program also does not have any dedicated classroom space or storage space. There is no office space for part-time faculty either.
  - The Dean recognized the space needs, and is including these concerns in the current conversation regarding space. She plans to conduct a full needs assessment for the college to identify best solutions.
  - The Provost suggested that the impending (summer 2017) moves on campus may help alleviate some of the space issues.
3. The lack of staff support was raised as a serious concern by faculty (Dr. Ji).
  - The faculty stated that there is currently one staff member stateside and one staff member hired for a large grant. With the large student population and the amount of grant management needs, an additional staff member is much desired.
  - The Provost asked the Dean to work on this staffing issue. The Dean indicated that she will carefully examine the staffing needs for the college, taking into consideration the funding available and the equity issue of staffing support across college. She asked the program to consider the optimal size of the program, and correspondingly, the optimal staff support needed.
4. The assessment is a work-in-progress.
  - o The AVPAP commended faculty leadership (Dr. Ji) in program assessment.
  - o Faculty (Dr. Ji) commented that the last program reaffirmation of accreditation was based on the 2008 standards. New standards are in place since 2015, and thus assessment needs to be changed to reflect the new standards. This is why it is a “work-in-progress”.
  - o The Chair commented that the program has a good “closing the loop” system. An example is the hiring of a faculty member who specializes in policy, a decision motivated by the assessment finding that student performance on policy is unsatisfactory.

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The Provost concluded the meeting by commending the commitment of the faculty to student success. The program thanked the Dean for her support. The faculty expressed the determination to publicize student achievement through social media, and the commitment to further strengthening their connections with alumni and local communities.