To:    Julia Wallace, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
        Steve Dutch, Chair of Academic Affairs Council
        Judith Martin, Chair Masters in Social Work Program

From:  Derryl Block, Interim Dean College of Professional and Graduate Studies

Date:  July 14, 2011

Re:    Program Review of Master of Social Work Program

The report by the Academic Affairs Council (AAC) on the Masters in Social Work (MSW) was received by the Interim Dean on July 5, 2011. Program Chair Judith Martin communicated that she did not intend to send an optional Chair response.

The MSW program is a collaborative program with UW Oshkosh. It prepares students for leadership in direct practice or administration/management in human service settings. The full time MSW program began in 2003 and the part time MSW program began in 2007. The program has a strong emphasis on preparing leaders in child welfare. The full time program is funded through undergraduate 102 funds. The part time program is funded through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. Both full and part time students who are preparing for child welfare employment can receive stipends funded by Title IV-E.

Much effort is placed on collaboration between UW-Green Bay and UW Oshkosh. Half of the matriculating students each year are admitted to one institution, half to the other. Half of the credits are taught by faculty from one institution, half by faculty from the other institution. Classes are taught at UW-Fox Valley, geographically halfway between the two campuses. Advising and field placement responsibilities are delineated and shared by the two institutions. Programmatic administration is rotated between UW-Green Bay and UW Oshkosh every four years. Key programmatic decisions are made by an oversight committee comprised of equal representation from each institution. There is also much coordination of student support services offered by each institution.

About half of the students hold undergraduate degrees in social work. These “advanced students” can complete the program in one year of full time study while “foundation students” who do not hold a social work degree can complete the program in two years of full time study. Graduates are eligible to take an exam to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).

The curriculum is structured around 14 foundation and 14 advanced competencies. Students assess each course according to these competencies, each student’s competencies are evaluated in field settings, and field agency personnel evaluate the Program’s preparation of students in each of the competency areas.

The curriculum is comprised of 12 credits of required advanced course work and additional credits according to student’s concentration in Direct Practice or Administration/Management.
Advanced Direct Practice students are required to take 6 credits of required course work, 6 credits of additional electives, and 8 credits of field practicum. Administration/Management students are required to take 9 credits of required course work, 3 credits of additional electives, and 8 credits of field practicum.

Admission and progression criteria are clearly delineated. The areas of concentration are well laid out. There are, however, relatively few students who choose the Administration/Management concentration.

Efforts have been made to recruit students and faculty from diverse backgrounds. Additionally, the curriculum has a strong thread about diversity.

Courses are offered in a face to face or hybrid format. There are plans to develop seven courses in Internet format in order to meet the needs of students who live far from UW Fox Valley. The program has been communicating with students via Facebook.

The program has been continually accredited. In 2010 the program was granted full accreditation until June 2018 from the Council on Social Work and Education.

The Collaborative MSW program graduates 30 to 35 students each year. Student employment after graduation is tracked and many students being hired by the agency where they had field experiences. Data show that student satisfaction with the program is high.

The program has deep connections to the professional social work community in NE Wisconsin. This is reflected by integration of the program with the NEW Partnership for Children and Families, field placements of students in agencies, the program’s Community Advisory Committee, and the large number of applicants for the program. Only half of the applicants are accepted into the program.

In conclusion, the MSW program is a successful and high quality graduate program that aims to educate professionals ready to assume administrative and direct practice leadership roles in human service agencies. The program is truly collaborative with joint decision making taking place between UW-Green Bay and UW Oshkosh. The MSW Program Competencies provide a firm structure for the curriculum and guide evaluation of students and the program itself. Potential growth of the program may be possible in different geographic regions but would necessitate additional faculty.

Recommendations
1. Continue efforts to increase diversity of students and faculty;
2. Continue to collaborate effectively with UW Oshkosh;
3. Evaluate ways to increase enrollment in the Administrative/Management concentration or to change that concentration to be more attractive to students;
4. Explore use of Internet teaching/learning; and
5. Consider offering “starter” courses in remote regions