



Governance Academic Year 2020-2021

There are ten total standing and ad hoc committees that make up the school's governance. Committees are comprised of social work faculty, staff, students, and community representatives. Committee members are responsible for initiating, monitoring, and evaluating all Grace Abbott School of Social Work policies and procedures.

The committee structure within the School facilitates democratic faculty participation in program planning and governance, goal setting and decision-making, and the fulfillment of the mission, goals and objectives of the School. Ad hoc committees of the School are appointed by the director as needed. Planning and decision-making with regard to policies are initiated from within the various committees and moved through appropriate channels before final presentation to the Faculty Staff Roundtable.

Faculty Staff Roundtable

Chair: Henry D'Souza

The Faculty Staff Roundtable meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 10 – 11:15 A.M. during the fall and spring semesters.

The Faculty Staff Roundtable of the GASSW has the responsibility and authority for final decisions of school policies. The committee consists of full and part-time faculty, staff, and graduate assistants. The Faculty Staff Roundtable meets once a month during the academic year for comprehensive communication and decision-making with regard to all program-related issues. Recommendations from all committees of the school are brought to the Faculty Staff Roundtable and decisions are made in a democratic way.

Banman, Aaron
Carbonell, Sonia
Circo, Deb
Cook-Fong, Sandy
D'Souza, Henry
Floreani, Natalie
Fry, Sueretta
Geisler, Avery
Harder, Jeanette
Heerten-Rodriguez, Liam
Kelley, Nancy
Kenny, Theori
Kirchner, Konnie
Knapp, Jeff

Meints, Brian
Nelsen, Michelle
Olson, Alisha (Phi Alpha advisor)
Reay, Susan
Rice, Ellen
Robbins Case, Katie
Sims, Lequisha
Sheldon, Roz
Smith, Lisa (SSWO advisor)
Szto, Peter
Warden, Ciara
West, Amy
Zhang, Yiwei



Admissions Committee

Chair: Liam Heerten-Rodriguez

The Admissions Committee meets in the fall and spring semesters as needed.

By delegation from the College of Graduate Studies and Research, the school's Program Committee, and subject to the approval of its Dean, the Admissions Committee has responsibility for the selection of graduate students. It has similar selection responsibility for undergraduate majors, under delegation from the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS). The Admissions Committee recommends admission policies, procedures and standards to the Faculty Staff Roundtable.

D'Souza, Henry (ex. Officio)
Rice, Ellen (ex Officio)
Circo, Deb
Cook-Fong, Sandy
Floreani, Natalie

Kirchner, Konnie
Knapp, Jeff
Sims, Lequisha
Warden, Ciara

Assessment Committee

Chair: Aaron Banman

The Assessment Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month from 9 – 10 A.M. during the fall and spring semesters.

The Assessment Committee is primarily responsible for linking the GASSW's mission statement to the program goals and linking these goals to elements within the curriculum structure that can be assessed. The Assessment Committee devises strategies for assessment at the classroom level, community level, and the statewide level for the MSW and the BSSW programs.

D'Souza, Henry (ex. Officio)
Rice, Ellen (ex. Officio)
Circo, Deb
Kelly, Nancy

Nelsen, Michelle
Olson, Alisha
Reay, Susan
Zhang, Yiwei



BSSW Committee

Chair: Jeff Knapp

The BSSW committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 12:30 – 1:30 P.M during the fall and spring semesters.

The purpose of the BSSW Committee is to improve the student experience in the BSSW program by monitoring BSSW curriculum, program policies, and advising in order to make appropriate recommendations for change. The BSSW committee will support students through partnership with GASSW faculty and staff. Additionally, the BSSW committee will welcome and solicit the feedback of BSSW students in regards to the BSSW program.

D'Souza, Henry (ex. Officio)
Rice, Ellen (ex. Officio)
Floreani, Natalie
Heerten-Rodriguez, Liam
Olson, Alisha

Sims, Lequisha
Smith, Lisa
Zhang, Yiwei
BSSW student rep.

Curriculum Committee

Chair: Ad hoc (committee assignment made by GASSW Director)

Ad hoc

The Curriculum Committee works closely with other committees of the school and is responsible for all curriculum-related activities, including syllabus development/changes and approval, monitoring curriculum policy and compliance with CSWE, and periodic review and revision of curriculum, including the comprehensive exam. The Committee brings curriculum recommendations to the Program Committee prior to Faculty-Staff Roundtable.

Personnel Committee

Chair: Ad hoc (committee assignment made by GASSW Director)

Ad hoc

The Personnel Committee considers general personnel issues and policies, makes recommendations to the GASSW Faculty Staff Roundtable, and also serves in an advisory role to the Director on personnel issues. The Personnel Committee consists of tenured faculty members from the RPT Committee plus two elected faculty members—one from the non-tenured level and from the instructor level. The Personnel Committee makes recommendations on the procedures for merit salary increases and serves as the selection and screening committee for new faculty members. It also recommends policy and procedures to the Faculty Staff Roundtable on matters pertaining to personnel.



Practicum Committee

Chair: Konnie Kirchner

The Practicum Committee meets on the second Wednesday of September, October, November, February, March and April from 3 – 4:30 P.M.

The Practicum Committee consists of the practicum coordinator, two practicum associates, two student representatives (undergraduate and graduate), two faculty members (appointed by the director of the school), and four-six community members who generally have experience as practicum instructors (appointed by the director of the school). The Practicum Committee has the responsibility for both graduate and undergraduate practicum program-related policies. Policy issues are presented to the Program Committee and the Faculty Staff Roundtable of the School of Social Work for endorsement. The Practicum Committee reviews practicum procedures and considers decisions based on student requests for practice in place of employment, practice outside of our region, and other special requests.

D'Souza, Henry (ex. Officio)
Rice, Ellen (ex. Officio)
Harder, Jeanette
Kenny, Theori
Olson, Alisha

Robbins Case, Katie
Smith, Lisa
(BSSW student rep.)
(MSW student rep.)
4-6 community members

Program Committee

Chair: Jeanette Harder

The Program Committee meets on the third Wednesday of the Month from 9:15 – 10:30 A.M. during the fall and spring semesters and on an as-needed basis.

The Program Committee has major responsibility for all undergraduate and graduate program-related policies. Comprised of elected faculty members, including an elected faculty chair, and two student representatives (BSSW and MSW), this committee makes decisions on student requests for exceptions, as well as appeals on admissions and grades, and is responsible for the operation of the School of Social Work Education Standards. While program committees at the graduate level are given authority for graduate program decisions within each unit by the College of Graduate Studies, the school's Program Committee also presents all policy issues to the Faculty Staff Roundtable for endorsement.

The Program Committee chair and the director of the School review and sign off on all graduate study plans.

D'Souza, Henry (ex. Officio)
Rice, Ellen (ex. Officio)
Circo, Deb
Cook-Fong, Sandy
Floreani, Natalie

Kelly, Nancy
Kirchner, Konnie
Reay, Susan
Warden, Ciara
MSW student rep



Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure (RPT) Committee

Chair: Nancy Kelly

The RPT Committee meets as needed during the fall and spring semesters

The RPT Committee, which consists of tenured faculty members, has the singular task to annually review and make recommendations on all faculty applications for reappointment, promotion, and tenure.

Beldin, Kerry (on leave)

Cook-Fong, Sandy

D'Souza, Henry (ex. Officio)

Harder, Jeanette

Szto, Peter (on leave)

Scholarship Committee

Chair: Ad hoc (committee assignment made by GASSW Director)

Ad hoc

The role of the Scholarship Committee is to communicate annually the availability of scholarships to social work students, receive and evaluate applications, and make and announce decisions on awards. The Scholarship Committee is chaired by the Director, and typical members include the BSSW coordinator, MSW coordinator, faculty assigned by the Director, and the school's administrative staff or others named by the director.

MSW Committee (Pilot for 2020-2021)

Chair: Ciara Warden

The MSW committee meeting schedule is TBD.

The purpose of the MSW Program Committee TBD at first committee meeting.

D'Souza, Henry (ex. Officio)

Rice, Ellen (ex. Officio)

Banman, Aaron

Cook-Fong, Sandy

Floreani, Natalie

Kenny, Theori

Knapp, Jeff

Reay, Susan

Robbins-Case, Katie

MSW student rep.

Updated August 19, 2020