

Grace Abbott School of Social Work

Governance Academic Year 2023-24

Ten total standing and ad hoc committees 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 regarding policies are initiated from within the various committees and moved through appropriate channels before final presentation to the Faculty Staff Roundtable.

Updated January 2024

Table of Contents

Admissions Committee	2
Assessment Committee	2
BSSW Committee	2
Curriculum Committee.....	3
Faculty Staff Roundtable	3
Field Practicum Committee.....	4
Graduate Program Committee	4
Personnel Committee	5
Reappointment, Appointment, and Tenure (RPT) Committee.....	5
Scholarship Committee	5

Admissions Committee

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. The committee meets in the fall and spring semesters as needed.

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| 1. Adamsick, Shannon | 6. Reay, Susan (ex officio) |
| 2. Borer, Kersten (chair) | 7. Rice, Ellen (ex officio) |
| 3. Carbonell, Sonia | 8. Szto, Peter |
| 4. Heerten-Rodriguez, Liam | 9. Warden, Ciara |
| 5. Olson, Alisha | 10. Zhang, Yiwei |

Assessment Committee

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

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| 1. Circo, Deb | 6. Rice, Ellen (ex officio) |
| 2. Cook-Fong, Sandy | 7. Robbins, Katie |
| 3. D'Souza, Henry | 8. Sariscsany, Laurel |
| 4. Olson, Alisha | 9. Soener, Emily |
| 5. Reay, Susan (ex officio) | 10. Zavala, Karla (GA) |
| | 11. Zhang, Yiwei (chair) |

BSSW Committee

The purpose of the BSSW Committee is to improve the student experience in the BSSW program by monitoring BSSW curriculum, program policies, and advising 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 from BSSW students regarding the BSSW program. The committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 9:30 – 10:30 A.M. during the fall and spring semesters.

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| 1. Borer, Kersten | 5. Rice, Ellen (ex officio) |
| 2. BSSW Student Rep. | 6. Smith, Lisa |
| 3. Kenny, Theori | 7. Soener, Emily |
| 4. Reay, Susan (ex officio) | 8. Szto, Peter (chair) |

Curriculum Committee

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. Chair and committee members are assigned by the GASSW director.

1. Reay, Susan (ex officio)
2. Rice, Ellen (ex officio)

Faculty Staff Roundtable

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 regarding 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. Meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 10 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. during the fall and spring semesters.

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| 1. Adamsick, Shannon | 15. Reay, Susan (chair) |
| 2. Borer, Kersten (Phi Alpha advisor) | 16. Rice, Ellen (co-chair) |
| 3. Carbonell, Sonia | 17. Robbins, Katie |
| 4. Circo, Deb | 18. Robinson, Ashley (GA) |
| 5. Cook-Fong, Sandy | 19. Rueda, Heidi |
| 6. D'Souza, Henry | 20. Sariscsany, Laurel |
| 7. Dinneen, Matt (GSW) | 21. Smith, Lisa (SSWO advisor) |
| 8. Heerten-Rodriguez, Liam | 22. Soener, Emily |
| 9. Kenny, Theori | 23. Szto, Peter |
| 10. Kirchner, Konnie | 24. Tuttle, Sharilyn (GA) |
| 11. Manning, Michelle | 25. Waldron, Abi (GSW) |
| 12. Nelsen, Michelle | 26. Warden, Ciara |
| 13. Nelson, Amanda | 27. Witte, Meghan (SW) |
| 14. Olson, Alisha | 28. Zavala, Karla (GA) |
| | 29. Zhang, Yiwei |

Field Practicum Committee

The Field Practicum Committee consists of the practicum coordinator, three 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 Field 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 Field 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. The committee meets on the second Wednesday of September, October, November, February, March, and April from 3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

1. Kenny, Theori
2. **Kirchner, Konnie (chair)**
3. Olson, Alisha
4. **Reay, Susan (ex officio)**
5. **Rice, Ellen (ex officio)**
6. Sariscsany, Laurel

Graduate Program Committee

The Graduate Program Committee (GPC) has overall responsibility for MSW program planning, admissions, policies, and curriculum. The committee oversees MSW students' progression toward the degree and readiness for graduation. While the UNO College of Graduate Studies gives the Graduate Program Committees authority for graduate program decisions, GASSW's Graduate Program Committee also presents key decisions to the Faculty/Staff Roundtable for endorsement. The Graduate Program Committee is comprised of at least three graduate faculty members, one of whom is chair. The Graduate Program Committee must also include the MSW Coordinator and representation from the practicum office, academic office, and MSW student body if at least two-thirds of the Committee are graduate faculty members. The director recommends the GPC chair and members to the UNO Graduate Studies dean who makes the final appointments. The committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 10 – 11:00 A.M. during the fall and spring semesters and on an as-needed basis.

1. Adamsick, Shannon
2. Circo, Deborah
3. Cook-Fong, Sandy
4. **D'Souza, Henry (chair)**
5. Heerten-Rodriguez, Liam
6. Kirchner, Konnie
7. **Reay, Susan (ex officio)**
8. **Rice, Ellen (ex officio)**
9. Warden, Ciara
10. Zavala, Karla (GA)

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee considers general personnel issues and policies, makes recommendations to the GASSW Faculty Staff Roundtable, and 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. Chair and committee members are assigned by the GASSW director.

1. Reay, Susan (ex officio)
2. Rice, Ellen (ex officio)

Reappointment, Appointment, and Tenure (RPT) Committee

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. The committee meets as needed during the fall and spring semesters.

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| 1. Cook-Fong, Sandy | 3. Rueda, Heidi (chair) |
| 2. D'Souza, Henry | 4. Szto, Peter |

Scholarship Committee

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. The chair and committee members are assigned by the GASSW director.

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| 1. Adamsick, Shannon | 5. Reay, Susan (ex officio) |
| 2. Carbonell, Sonia | 6. Rice, Ellen (ex officio) |
| 3. Circo, Deb (chair) | 7. Sariscsany, Laurel |
| 4. Kenny, Theori | 8. Soener, Emily |