December 13, 2005

Joan Carson, PhD
Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness
Georgia State University
Atlanta, GA

Dear Dr. Carson,

I have reviewed the School of Social Work’s Self Study for Academic Program Review for the period of July 1, 2002-June 30, 2005. I commend the faculty and director for their thorough review of the School’s strengths and weaknesses, as well as establishing goals that will continue to move the School forward in teaching and scholarship.

There are several areas that I would like our external reviewers to comment upon during their campus visit.

1) The School is proposing to create a Center on Collaborative Social Work. The impetus for establishing the Center is to centralize efforts to build and sustain healthy communities. The School recently received a $2 million contract from the Georgia Department of Children and Family Services to develop a training program for experienced child welfare workers. It is the School’s belief that this Center will help faculty attract additional funding, as well as provide an infrastructure within the School to manage grants. I would be interested in any advice the reviewers might offer regarding the development of such a Center.

2) The School is proposing to expand the BSW program with the goal of professionalizing and diversifying the child protective service work force in metro Atlanta. This initiative would require cooperation from local associate degree programs as well as services from Georgia State’s English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Are the reviewer’s knowledgeable regarding similar programs around the county? Given limited resources, is this goal worthy of pursuing?
3) The School and Institute of Public Health are considering the development of an interdisciplinary PhD program in Urban Health. The School believes that such a doctoral program would be attractive to MSW graduates who desire an advanced degree. It would be helpful to have the reviewers comment on whether master's prepared social workers with an interdisciplinary PhD would be competitive for social work faculty positions.

4) Lastly, is the level of scholarly productivity appropriate for the size and composition of the faculty?

I am very pleased with the progress of the School of Social Work and look forward to the visit of the external reviewers.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Kelley
Dean and Professor
College of Health and Human Sciences