Human Services Program Advisory Committee

May 15, 2009

Advisory Committee Members Present: Jarid Corbitt, Gwen Delp, Jean Hackel, Carolyn Huddnall, Rebecca Johnson, Sharon Kirkpatrick, Susan McPhee, Kathy Ramsay, Cal Scheidegger, Eric Shew, Russel Whidbee

Welcome and Introductions

Following participation in an icebreaker, participants shared information they learned about the challenges, resources and identities of the various communities represented by members.

Committee Charge and Review of Program

The committee reviewed the committee charge:

The Human Services Program Advisory Committee will serve the students, staff and faculty of the Western Washington University Human Services Program by: (1) providing feedback regarding local state, and national trends and needs, policy changes; (2) acting as an advocate for the program; and (3) providing feedback on the current curriculum and proposed curriculum changes in the future. The Human Services Program Advisory Committee will act in an advisory capacity to the faculty, staff, and students to support its vision, mission and goals.

Faculty Introductions and Role of Co-Chairs

The chair and co-chair introduced themselves to the committee and their roles on the committee.

Overview of the Department and the Human Service Program

The Department Chair provided members with an orientation/overview to the Department of Human Services and Rehabilitation Counseling, which consists of the undergraduate program of Human Services and graduate program in Rehabilitation Counseling.

HSPAC is part of the Human Services program’s celebration of its’ 35th anniversary as the program looks to create a vision for itself in the future.

Because the current economic situation is expected to transform higher education as well as the Human Services profession and its delivery, the committee is looked toward as a guide for faculty engaged in changing the program to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Recently, the program refocused upon Whatcom and Snohomish counties and moved to state support of tenure track faculty. Both are examples of some strategic moves towards repositioning the program for the future.

The Human Services program is an example of higher education opportunity that blends the liberal arts experience with professional practice.

The Human Services Philosophy Statement was introduced to members.
Human services professionals effect change at all levels of society to enhance the well-being of self, individual, group, community, and global systems. Social justice, self determination, and service to others through strengths-based models of ethical professional practice define our program philosophy. The dynamic, resilient, and interdependent nature of systems provides a conceptual framework for the curriculum.

Intellectual inquiry immerses learners in multiple perspectives, theories, and disciplines, anchoring us in the diverse lived experiences of self and others. With a deep commitment to making a difference, students discover ways to facilitate processes for systems analysis, problem-solving, advocacy, and social change. 7/06

Faculty shared their understanding of what the Human Services is with committee members.

History of Human Services and Experiential Learning

Faculty introduced faculty to the history of the program at WWU, including the experiential and community based learning focus of the program.

Examples:

- Community Organizing
- Olympia Lobby Day -
- Teens in Foster Care – Life Books

Curriculum Overview

Faculty introduced committee members to the Human Services curriculum organization. The curriculum is organized as a spiraling sequential systems structure that incorporates rigorous scholarly work and theoretical knowledge combined with practical skills development through experiential learning experiences.

The curriculum culminates with a Capstone Portfolio that is a summary of each students work with the curriculum and demonstrates their understanding of the profession and application of theoretical knowledge.

A student committee member currently a senior in the program shared their personal electronic capstone portfolio that is posted online.

Accreditation

The committee members listened to an introduction to the program accreditation process that is currently underway, as presented by the regional representative for Council for Standards in Human Services Education (www.CSHSE.org).

Lunch

Closing