MEMORANDUM

TO: Noreen Mokuau, Dean, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work
    Jing Guo, Graduate Chair, PhD in Social Welfare program

FROM: Michael Bruno, Provost
       Krystyna Aune, Dean of Graduate Division

RE: Response to the One-Year Report - PhD in Social Welfare (SWEL)

Mahalo for your May 15, 2020 one-year progress report on the 2019 program review report. Your program review one-year report summarizes the program’s responses to the program review report and recommendations in the themes of faculty support and graduate student recruitment and retention. We applaud your efforts to facilitate the success of faculty in securing extramural funding in several key ways: the web-based research profile, the training sessions, and the Social Work Graduate Faculty Research Salon. Clearly these efforts have paid off, and the faculty members’ success in obtaining grants is commended.

Likewise, the program has made considerable progress on graduate student recruitment efforts as well in key areas: updating the MBTSSW website, working with Graduate Division on creating the Grad Map, and participating in graduate and career fairs. These efforts are also demonstrably fruitful with the increased number of applicants and incoming students. It is particularly heartening to learn that 4 of the incoming students are Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders. The retention efforts are also impressive with the newly launched PhD alumni survey, the curriculum and advising updates, the mentoring, and PhD student Hui meetings. The 100% passing rate on the qualifying exams is also encouraging. We are also pleased that Dr. Guo will be joining Graduate Council for a 3-year term beginning this fall. This is further testament to the attention paid and interest in improving graduate education within your program and beyond.

We appreciate the earnestness in which you have engaged in the program review process and moreover, all of your hard work and commitment to continuously improve this important graduate program. We look forward to getting updates regarding enrollment trends and outcomes of your continued efforts. The mid-cycle report will be due on June 1, 2022.