Student Organization Program Review
Action Plan and Final Report: Executive Summary

During the 2014-2015 academic year, the Center for Student Engagement’s (CSE) Student Involvement team (the Unit) participated in a comprehensive program review of its activity in support of the ongoing Division of Student Affairs commitment to assessment and continuous improvement. The Student Involvement team is half of the CSE’s Student Involvement and Greek Life team (SIGL) and is charged with oversight of student involvement, including student organizations and large-scale campus programming. The Unit’s program review process included a self-study as well as an internal and external review of all initiatives, staffing, processes, procedures, and programs related to student organizations at GW. The review was guided by a set of intentionally selected research questions:

- How successful is the unit in meeting its stated goals?
- What challenges does the unit face in meeting its stated goals?
- How should the unit connect with the rest of the Center for Student Engagement to promote citizenship and leadership?
- In what ways should the unit work to promote the development of positive relationships between student organizations and faculty?
- In what ways should the unit collaborate with GW Center for Career Services to promote professional development and prepare students for success following graduation?
- In what ways should the unit facilitate fundraising, stewardship, and relationship development between student organizations and their alumni and other stakeholders?

Overall, the program review has been incredibly valuable for crafting a strategic vision for the Unit at a critical period of transition and growth for both the department and Unit. The program review brought professional standards (CAS) together with national best practices and departmental, divisional, and institutional priorities and allowed the Unit to craft an intentional and strategic set of goals grounded in research, analysis, and professional expertise. As a result of the program review, the Unit has developed goals in four primary areas of focus – advising, community, team excellence, and leadership. The summary below offers an overview of the Unit’s overarching goals and specific priorities that will guide our work through 2019-2020.

**ADVISING:** Empower the growth and development of student organizations and their leaders and members by forming meaningful relationships, helping them make meaning from both challenges and successes, and offering an accessible and reliable source of knowledge and information.

- Clear and transparent advisor expectations in line with departmental goals and student needs
- Accountability and assessment surrounding advisor performance
- Intentional and comprehensive training and development of advisors

**COMMUNITY:** Foster a supportive, collaborative, and inclusive community of student organizations that promotes involvement, allows students to find a sense of belonging, and empowers students to become leaders and gain unique experiences.

- Stronger and less redundant community of student organizations, aligned with University mission and needs of campus community
- Improve cross-departmental partnerships in order to create and implement student-centered processes, policies, and programs
- Foster a community of student organizations that is supportive, collaborative, and inclusive
- Brand the Center for Student Engagement/Student Involvement-Greek Life (CSE/SIGL) team as the hub of the student organization community

**TEAM AND DEPARTMENTAL EXCELLENCE:** Develop as a fully staffed team with clearly defined roles to advocate on behalf students and their organizations and facilitate the creation of transparent, student-centered, and data-driven policies, programs, and procedures.

- Recruit, development, and maintain a fully staffed team with cohesive, strategic, and transparent roles
- Improve accessibility of student organization support and advisors
- Integrate intentional and strategic assessment into programing/initiatives
- Advocate on behalf of student organizations and equip students with skills to advocate effectively
- Manage space in an efficient, transparent, and effective manner
- Provide student organizations with resources to navigate policy and procedure

**LEADERSHIP:** Provide student organization members and officers with the opportunities to develop their leadership skills through training, practice, and reflection.

- Create a comprehensive system of training that reflects and meets the diverse learning needs and styles of GW’s student population
- Design refined learning outcomes of involvement that reflect the specific learning and skill-building that stems from student organization leadership