

**September 1, 2009**  
**University of South Dakota Report on Progress**  
**Toward a Master of Social Work**

**Time frame for program**

Academic year 2009-2010 will be a planning year for curriculum development, acquisition of program leadership, and preparation for accreditation candidacy. No students will be admitted in this first year. A cohort of standard program students will be admitted every two years, starting in fall 2010. A cohort of advanced standing students will be admitted every year beginning in summer of 2011.

Number of Faculty Hired Per Year

As per accreditation standards, the Department of Social Work's intent is to hire four additional faculty incrementally as the program is being developed (over the next three years), achieves accreditation candidacy, and receives initial accreditation. The time line for hiring faculty and a CSA secretary position to fully staff the MSW program follows.

2009-2010 Academic Year

- \*1 MSW Program Director
- \*1 Department Field Education Director
- 1 0.50 FTE CSA Secretary

\*Searches have been completed and the MSW Program Director position and the Department Field Education Director have been filled. It is expected that the 0.50 FTE CSA Secretary position will be filled during the 2009-2010 academic year. More information on the recent hires is included later in this report.

2010-2011 Academic Year

1 MSW Program Faculty Member

2011-2012 Academic Year

1 MSW Program Faculty Member

Estimated Costs Per Year

The following program operation costs are estimates that are taken from the final proposed budget for this program as submitted to the Board of Regents. We continue to estimate costs essentially as described – no changes to the budget have been made.

1st Year-FY10 2nd Year-FY11 3rd Year-FY12 4th Year-FY13 5th Year-FY 14 6th Year-FY15

\$319,000      \$388,438      \$461,000      \$471,500      \$467,000      \$474,500

## **Curriculum Development Progress**

As a part of the proposal process, the Department of Social Work developed a projected curriculum for the MSW degree. The MSW degree will be offered in two formats. For students who possess a baccalaureate degree in social work, a 36 credit hour advanced standing concentration curriculum will be offered. For students who do not possess a baccalaureate degree in social work, a 60 credit hour traditional, foundation, and concentration curriculum will be offered. The degree program has two formats in order to maximize enrollment which will include graduates of accredited undergraduate social work programs located in South Dakota and the surrounding states, as well as individuals who possess a non-Social Work Bachelors Degree that are currently employed in the social or human services fields.

Although a curriculum for the both the traditional and advanced standing programs was provided in the program proposal approved by the Board of Regents, refinement and further development of the curriculums for these will occur during the 2009-2010 academic year under the direction of the MSW Program Director, Chair of the Department of Social Work and the Department's faculty.

## **Accreditation Procedures and Progress**

The Department of Social Work intends to admit the first cohort of MSW students in the fall of 2010. The Department has filed the letter of intent, the Candidacy Eligibility Application, with the Council on Social Work Education in August, 2009. Our plan is for the MSW Program Director together with the Department Field Education Director and the Chair of the Department to prepare the necessary documents by the beginning of 2010 and complete the procedures required to achieve accreditation candidacy before students are admitted.

## **Recruitment of New Faculty and Students**

As noted earlier in this report, the Department engaged a national search to fill the position of MSW Program Director. We are happy to share with you that we hired Dr. Elizabeth Talbot, who was the MSW Program Director at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. Dr. Talbot has a Master's Degree in Social Work from Aurora University in Illinois and a Ph.D. in Social Work from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Talbot brings considerable experience to the development of an MSW and achieving accreditation Candidacy as she accomplished both during her tenure at St. Cloud State. For the Department Field Education Director position we engaged in a more local search by intention to hire someone who is familiar with the social and human services system in South Dakota. Deborah Aden from Sioux Falls, SD has been hired. Deborah, at the time of her hire, was a faculty member and long standing Field Education Director with the undergraduate social work program at the University of Sioux Falls. She brings a wealth of experience to this position having performed this very job in her previous location. She possesses a Masters Degree in

Social Work from the University of Nebraska Omaha. We are very pleased with the response and interest in these positions.

Although we have publicly announced plans for the MSW, we have not begun to actively recruit students at this time, largely because the admission criteria and process for the MSW program has not been fully developed. We will begin the development of this during the fall of 2009 and likely begin to set an admissions process in motion in the early 2010. We are encouraged to report that there has been great interest in our MSW program by potential applicants. We fully anticipate meeting our student number goals.

### **Practicum Site Possibilities**

At this time, we have begun preliminary development of practicum sites for the MSW program. This task has been assigned to the Department Field Education Director, Professor Aden. We have received inquiries from agencies asking about being considered as a practicum site for MSW students. Due to Professor Aden's experience with this role, particularly in the Sioux Falls area, we feel confident that we will be able to secure an adequate number and variety of field education agency placements for the MSW program.

### **Summary**

In summary, we are pleased to report that we are on schedule, having hired the critical positions of MSW Program Director and Field Education Director, and begun the program accreditation process. The entire Department's faculty will be engaging in the ongoing program planning and accreditation candidacy processes and we move forward on-schedule to admit our first cohort of students in Fall of 2010, as proposed.