

**Status Report to the Joint Committee on Appropriations
South Dakota State Legislature**

**Master of Social Work Degree Program
The University of South Dakota**

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Prepared By:

**Charles L. Schwartz, PhD, MSW
Chair, Department of Social Work
School of Health Sciences
University of South Dakota**

and

**Brian Kaatz, PharmD
Dean, School of Health Sciences
University of South Dakota**

On April 6, 2009 the Joint Committee on Appropriations of the South Dakota Legislature requested quarterly reports summarizing the status of the new Masters Degree in Social Work at The University of South Dakota. Following is the second quarterly report by the University to the Board of Regents and the Joint Committee. This report will provide information and discuss each of the areas requested by the Committee.

Time frame for program implementation and estimated number of students

As previously described, academic year 2009-2010 is 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 10 standard program students will be admitted every two years, starting in fall 2010. A cohort of 10 advanced standing students will be admitted every year beginning in summer of 2011. We assume attrition of one student every other year. Estimated enrollments for the first years of the program are shown in the table below.

Master of Social Work	Fiscal Years of Program			
	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14
Students new to the university	10	10	20	10
Total students in the program (Each fall)	10	19	20	19
Graduates	0	19	10	19

Number of Faculty Hired Per Year

As per the requirements of the Council on Social Work Education Accreditation Standards, the Department of Social Work intends to incrementally hire four additional faculty for the MSW as the program is being developed (over the first 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; the above positions have been filled and are occupied.

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 general fund requests are as listed in the final proposed budget for the MSW as submitted to the Board of Regents and South Dakota Legislature. They are estimated program needs less tuition and fee recovery.

<u>1st Year-FY10</u>	<u>2nd Year-FY11</u>	<u>3rd Year-FY12</u>	<u>4th Year-FY13</u>	<u>5th Year-FY 14</u>	<u>6th Year-FY15</u>
\$319,000	\$388,438	\$461,000	\$471,500	\$467,000	\$474,500

The allocation for base funding received from the South Dakota legislature for FY10 was \$237,251. The three positions hired to support the program were hired in August (faculty) and October (staff). These starting dates some months after the beginning of the fiscal year in July will allow FY10 expenditures to be covered by the allocation. The approximate expenditures through the first half of FY2010 (through December 2010) are \$105,000.

It will be critical to secure the remainder of needed base funding for FY11 to assure continuing progress.

Curriculum Development Progress

The Department of Social Work has developed a 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 foundation/ 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.

The MSW degree for the both the traditional and advanced standing programs were approved by the Board of Regents in December of 2008; the individual courses for these were not. Since that time the Department of Social Work has made changes in proposed courses and added new courses. Therefore new course requests and both substantive and minor program modifications have been submitted to the Board of Regents for approval of the curriculums of the 2 year and advanced stranding programs. These are pending.

Accreditation Procedures and Progress

The Department of Social Work intends to admit the first cohort of MSW students in the fall of 2010, thus it is imperative that the MSW program have achieved accreditation candidacy by that time. The Department has filed a letter of intent and a Candidacy Eligibility Application with the Council on Social Work Education. In September 2009, approval of the letter of intent and Candidacy Eligibility Application were received from the Council on Social Work Education and we were advised to proceed to prepare the Benchmark One document, the

second step in obtaining accreditation candidacy. This document is due before the end of February 2010. When this document is approved, a member of the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education will be assigned to visit the MSW program. The Commissioner will file a report with the Council and if approved, the program will be given approval to begin offering courses.

Recruitment of New Faculty and Students

As noted earlier in this report, the Department has filled the positions of MSW Program Director and Department Field Education Director. The names and bios of the individuals we have hired were included in the first quarterly report. We have also filled the half time support staff position for the MSW program at the time of this report.

At the time of this report we have begun to actively recruit students for admission to the 2 year foundation/concentration MSW program. The admission criteria and process for the MSW program has now been fully developed. We are encouraged to report that there has been great interest in our MSW program by potential applicants. The Graduate School at the University and the Department of Social Work have received over one hundred phone call and email inquiries about the MSW and the Graduate School has provided program admission materials program to these individuals over the past month. We have set an application deadline of February 1, 2010 for admission to the 2 year MSW program for next fall. We fully anticipate meeting our student number goals.

Practicum Site Possibilities

We are well into the development of field education placement sites for the MSW program. Department Field Education Director Professor Aden has been actively developing these placement sites in preparation for the cohort of MSW students admitted to the program for fall 2010.

Summary

In summary, we are pleased to report that we are on schedule having hired for the critical positions of MSW Program Director and Field Education Director and a half time support staff position. These individuals as well as the Department's faculty will be engaging in 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.