

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

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

Spring 2010

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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 third 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 in the first quarterly report and reiterated in the second quarterly report, academic year 2009-2010 has been 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 foundation/concentration program students was proposed to be admitted every two years, starting in fall 2010; the program is planning to accommodate 12. 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	12	10	22	10
Total students in the program (Each fall)	12	21	22	21
Graduates	0	21	10	21

Number of Faculty Hired Per Year

As per the requirements of the Council on Social Work Education Accreditation Standards, the Department of Social Work's intends 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 all of the above positions have been filled.

2010-2011 Academic Year

- **1 MSW Program Faculty Member

** A search has been completed and this position has been filled

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.

<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 first half of the Program funding needs were appropriated in the 2009 legislative session. The second half of the funding was not legislatively appropriated, but has been committed by the South Dakota Board of Regents so that the Program can begin on time.

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 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. An MSW Program Advisory Council has been formed made up of members from the accredited undergraduate programs in the state, as well as individuals from agencies who will hire the graduates of this program. The Advisory Council had its first meeting in October of 2009. The feedback received from the Advisory Council at this meeting was positive and indicated agreement with the curriculum approach to the offering of this degree. Another Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for June 2010.

Although the MSW degree program for the both the traditional and advanced standing programs that were described in the program proposal, were approved by the Board of Regents in December of 2008, the 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 curriculum actions were approved at the April Board of Regents meeting.

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 be well underway towards achievement of accreditation candidacy by that time. The Department 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 was completed and submitted the end of February, 2010. The Department received notice on March 26, 2010 that the Benchmark I document was approved for official review by the Program's Accreditation Specialist at the Council on Social Work Education. This action provides two important things for the MSW program. One, it provides approval for the program to begin offering courses in the fall of 2010, and secondly it provides for the assignment of a member of the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education to visit the MSW program. The assigned Commissioner will make this visit in September or October of 2010. The Commissioner will then file a report with the Accreditation Commission and, if based on this report the Benchmark I document is officially approved in February of 2011, the program will be admitted to accreditation candidacy.

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. As noted above, a search has been completed to fill the MSW faculty position that is congruent with the timeline for hiring noted previously in this report. Additionally, secondary to a Department retirement, another faculty member was also hired this spring. One new hire will have primary responsibility for the MSW and the second will maintain primary responsibility for the BSW program but will contribute to the MSW program as well. Both new hires are PhD's and have excellent experience within the Social Work field.

At the time of this report applications for admission to the two year foundation/concentration MSW program have been received and processed. We set an application deadline of February 15, 2010 for admission to the 2-year MSW program for Fall 2010 and applications were actually received up to about March 1, 2010. The total number of applications received was between 45 and 50. The review of applications has been completed and a cohort of twelve students has been accepted for admission for fall 2010. A waiting list has been established from the strong applicant group.

Practicum Site Possibilities

At this time, we are well into the development of field education placement sites for the MSW program. Department Field Education Director, Professor Aden has taken charge and engaged in the process of actively developing these placement sites in preparation for the cohort of MSW students we will admit to the program for Fall 2010. A list of these placement agencies has been posted separately on the Program's website.

Program Location – MSW to be delivered in Sioux Falls

The University believed that offering the program in Sioux Falls would best accommodate working students and sought approval from the South Dakota Board of Regents to teach the program at the Health Sciences Center on the Sanford campus in Sioux Falls. That approval was granted at the March 31 BOR meeting in Aberdeen. In his comments after approval was granted, Dr. Jack Warner, the executive director of the Regents, said “the intent is to make [the program] more convenient and accessible for a greater number of students, many of whom work full time while taking care of their families”.

The program concurs and expects that travel time and expense for students will be reduced. Many field placements will be located in the Sioux Falls area, thus also contributing to student convenience.

Summary

In summary, we are pleased to report that we are on schedule having hired for the critical positions of MSW Program Director, Field Education Director, a half time support staff position, and an additional faculty member. These individuals as well as the Department's faculty will be engaging in the ongoing program planning and accreditation candidacy processes and we move forward on-schedule to provide the curriculum of the foundation/concentration MSW to our first cohort of students in Fall of 2010, as proposed.