



BOARD OF REGENTS

306 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 200
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-2545
(605) 773-3455/FAX (605) 773-5320
<http://www.sdbor.edu/>

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 8, 2009

Senator Jean Hunhoff, Chair,
Committee on Appropriations
South Dakota Senate

Representative Larry Tidemann, Chair,
Committee on Appropriations
South Dakota House of Representatives

Dear Senator Hunhoff and Representative Tidemann:

Earlier this year the Legislature partially funded the University of South Dakota Master of Social Work (MSW) that was included in the Board's FY10 budget request. As described in the Board's request, during FY10 the University was to hire program staff and begin the accreditation process. Licensure as a certified social worker requires a "doctorate or master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the council on social work education" (SDCL 36-26-14). The planning year was to make it possible for the students who begin in Summer 2010 to graduate from an accredited program.

The Joint Committee on Appropriations requested reports on the progress of the new program. The first report, prepared by the University of South Dakota, is enclosed. As noted in the report, the University has hired an MSW program director and a field education director and has begun the accreditation process with the Council on Social Work Education.

Please contact me or my staff if you have any questions about the MSW program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Warner".

Jack Warner
Executive Director and CEO

cc: President James Abbott, USD

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

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

September 1, 2009

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 initial 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 MSW proposal materials, 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 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 FY11	3rd FY12	4th FY13	5th 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 accreditation standards and as stated in the program proposal, 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.

<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

These estimated future costs are not currently entirely covered by state funding; the second half of the needed funds will be sought in the next legislative session.

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, thus it is imperative that the MSW program have achieved accreditation candidacy by that time. 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 had seven applicants for this position. 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. There were fifteen applications for the position and we hired Deborah Aden from Sioux Falls, SD. 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, especially having started very late in the typical cycle for recruiting and hiring 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. The Graduate School at the University has reported having received over one hundred phone call and email inquiries about the MSW program over the past three months. Likewise, the Department of Social Work has received numerous phone call and email inquiries from potential students during the last three months. 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. In the spring of 2009, the Department completed an email survey with the field practicum agencies in which we place our undergraduate students asking them if they employed MSW practitioners and have the availability of MSW supervision in their agency. We contacted 30 agencies and 15 (50%) responded. Of the 15 who responded, 11 agencies indicated an interest in providing a field practicum placement for MSW students. We consider this very preliminary information and 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.