

Report: 2013-2014

April 18, 2014

TO: Wynne Korr, Dean and Professor
Sandra Kopels, Chair, Executive Committee

FROM: Susan A. Cole, Chair

RE: MSW Committee - Year End Report (2013-2014)

The major activities of the MSW Committee Academic Year 2013 - 2014, SSW-UIUC:

Fall 2012 Topics/Activities:

- 1) MSW Outreach program planning continues; dual site pilot initiated for 2014 (Rockford/Urbana)
- 2) Discussions of structure of School of Social Work Curriculum initiated: Concentrations versus specializations with certificate in focus areas begun (Attachment 2: Discussion proposal) to be continued next academic year
- 3) Review of MSW Assessment Data
 - a) Off-Campus/Blended Program Development Discussion
 1. Two Focus Groups convened with Off-Campus students
 2. Listening sessions conducted regarding the Off-Campus Program
 3. Individual interviews conducted regarding the Off-Campus Program
 4. Report submitted based on data compiled completed August 2013
 5. Faculty Retreat Discussion and Faculty Meeting In-Services developed and facilitated.
 - b) Field Evaluations
 1. Field Instructors and Students
 - c) Concentration Assessment of Field Applicability
 1. Developed
 2. Implemented Summer 2013; Fall 2013
 - d) Format for reporting Benchmarks developed.
- 4) Proposed to faculty: Elimination of stats requirement based on research among peer institutions and our own data.
 - a. We are currently tracking data for the class of Spring 2014 re: advanced research to assess effect
 - b. If data warrants, a "Stats Boot-camp" to prepare students entering the program.
- 5) Field Issues: Options discussed to make the Field Practicum and Field Course an integrated whole i.e., study emphasized importance of satisfactorily completing both components to complete the requirement and graduate.
- 6) Initiated discussion of ways to assess students in addition to grade points (such as attitude, troubling behaviors) is under review.
- 7) Discussed integrated health/mental health track – Mental Health Committee and Healthcare Committee led discussion and planned lunch time discussions with providers in the field.
- 8) ALSC - reviewed and revisions of the concentration (LSC) presented and approved by MSW Committee

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2014-2015 Topics/Activities/Future Directions:

- 1) Identity MSW Practitioner Competencies (skills, knowledge and attitudes) beyond CSWE “advanced competencies” to foster competent beginning advanced MSW practitioners
- 2) Develop expanded assessment of students beyond grade point prior to entering the field.
- 3) Complete planning and launch of Off-campus, blended program
- 4) Address issue of adjunct teaching

Members:

Susan Cole, MSW Director, Associate Professor, Chair, MSW Committee

Hong Li, Associate Professor, Chair, Health Specialization

Hellen MacDonald, Clinical Professor, Chair Mental Health Specialization

Mary Maurer, Assistant Dean for Field Education, MSW Field Education Director, Associate Clinical Professor

Carol Wilson-Smith, Clinical Professor, Chair, Schools Specialization

Chi-Fang Wu, Associate Professor and Ben Lough, Assistant Professor, Chair, Advocacy, Leadership, and Social Change Specialization

Student Member:

MSW Student, President of the Graduate Students Association, School of Social Work

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Attachment 1: Monthly Agendas and Minutes Available on Request

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Attachment 2: Discussion Proposal

