

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY

Designation Code: 2010-11 CAPR 18

Date Submitted: May 9, 2011

To: The Academic Senate
From: The Committee on Academic Planning and Review (CAPR)
Subject: Five-Year Program Review for the Externally Accredited Masters in Social Work
Purpose: For Action by the Academic Senate

Action

Requested:

1. Acceptance of the Five-Year Program Review of the Masters in Social Work and continuation of the program without modification.
2. Placement of the MSW program on the Academic Senate calendar for review in 2019-2020.

Background

A Five-Year Program Review and Plan was presented to CAPR by Evaon Wong-Kim, the Social Work Chair. The information was discussed during the March 3, 2011 meeting. Revisions to the Five-Year Review and Plan were provided by Evaon Wong-Kim on March 13, 2011. Wong-Kim presented information about the accreditation report to CAPR November 18, 2010.

A letter to the CSUEB President reaffirming accreditation of the Master of Social Work program was provided to CAPR. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) voted in June 2010 to reaffirm the program's accreditation for eight years, ending June 2018, with a progress report by April 2011 to be reviewed by the Commission on Accreditation (COA). Two areas of concern were identified. The program was asked for further information including the full-time faculty to student ratio. Also requested was evidence that students do not repeat foundation practice content or provision of a rationale and supporting evidence that the required foundation content is substantively different from that which students would have mastered in other accredited institutions. Responses to both areas of concern are included in the plan submitted to CAPR.

Annual reports for Social Work from 2006-2007 and 2008-2009 were submitted. The reports document the growth of the program from 2003-2009 and provide student enrollment, faculty, and assessment data. Five volumes of the self study were also provided to CAPR. CAPR members voted unanimously to accept the program review and approve continuation of the program without modification and its May 5, 2011 meeting.

Summary of the Review

The Masters in Social Work experienced continual growth for a number of years, with 150 or more students on the Hayward campus and 50 on the Concord campus, up from 150 in 2005. However, due to budget constraints, the program stopped enrolling students to the Concord program in Fall 2010 and has decreased the number of students admitted on the Hayward campus. Of the 400 students who applied last year, only 75 were admitted. The MSW program has shelved its plans to develop gerontology as a potential new concentration due to financial challenges.

The major concern of the outside reviewers was the low number of faculty in the program. There are three tenured faculty members and one faculty emeritus currently in the MSW program. The program has been very proactive in obtaining two major grants to fund coordinators and full-time lecturers, but the lack of sufficient numbers of tenured/tenure track faculty represents a challenge in terms of maintaining accreditation and serving students effectively. The loss of two junior faculty members due to resignations at the end of the Spring 2010 quarter exacerbated the problem. Searches for two new faculty members are

being conducted for the upcoming school year. Additional positions are required in order to meet accreditation standards. Full compliance with CSWE accreditation standards requires seven full-time faculty members given the current enrollment. Low faculty numbers was a major element in the justification for two additional faculty lines submitted to the CLASS Dean.

A new Masters in Social Work program started at the Oakland Center in Fall 2010. The program is offered through the Department of Continuing and International Education (DCIE) and has 60 students enrolled. The program is designed for working adults who attend part-time and can be completed in three years.

The MSW program is dependent in part on external funding. Currently, there are forty full-time students and fifteen part-time students receiving stipends through the Title IVE grant, which also funds one full-time coordinator, three and a half lecturers, and one and a half administrative support staff positions.

The program is in the process of building a collaborative relationship with the U.S. Navy with a focus on training social workers to serve the increasingly complex psychosocial needs of veterans and their families. Military members returning from active service need specialized care and treatment. This collaboration will result in increased employment opportunities for MSW graduates, opportunities for training grants, and internship placements.

The MSW program assessment plans include ratings for student performance by field instructors, the community project, and the year two capstone. Pre-post student surveys, alumni and employer surveys are included in assessment for the program. Evaluations by faculty and analysis of grade point averages are considerations in assessment of the program. The CSWE complimented the assessment procedures and did not recommend changes. Support in terms of release time for faculty is necessary to continue thorough assessment of the program.

In response to the CSWE concern about students repeating course content, the program is offering competence exams. Students will have the option of challenging courses in Human Behavior in the Social Environment (HBSE), Policy and Research by examination. Successful completion of the challenge exam will result in the course or courses being waived. Credit requirements will then be met through enrollment in another course relevant to social work. Students who have completed a BSW can present syllabi to the Chair for determination regarding equivalence. Advance standing is not offered by the program, students transferring from other MSW programs can transfer up to thirteen quarter units.

Future Priorities

Priorities for the upcoming years include:

1. Securing additional tenured/tenure track faculty for the program in order to meet student demand and comply with accreditation requirements.
2. Creation of additional hybrid and online course offerings to accommodate working adults.
3. Continue to monitor resources and demand on the Concord campus with the intention of reestablishing the Concord-based program.
4. Continued focus on concentrations in children, youth and family as well as community mental health.
5. Continued progress toward development of a Bachelor of Social Work degree program to be funded by a Title IVE training grant. The BSW could include a forensic social work concentration.

CAPR Recommendations

1. CAPR recommends acceptance of the Five-Year Program Review of the Masters in Social Work and continuation of the program without modification.
2. Placement of the MSW program on the Academic Senate calendar for review in 2019-2020.