

2008-2009 Budget Narrative

Introduction

The College of Social Work is ranked 28th by U.S. News and World Report, placing the College in the top 16% of all graduate schools of social work and in the top 20 of all public graduate schools of social work. The College of Social Work ranks 7th in the nation for Scholarly Productivity in Social Service Journals. The College has undergone two major reviews in the last few years and a mid-cycle academic program review. Both the Council on Social Work Education Reaffirmation on Accreditation and the Academic Program Reviews have spoken to the excellence of the faculty, staff, students, and academic programs of the College. Through College reallocation of funds and repositioning of College priorities, the College continues to excel. The College continues to be a leader in securing external funding. The College has worked diligently to increase national and international visibility of the College and the University. Located on three campuses (Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis), communication will always be a challenge for faculty and staff. The college continues to work on the improvement of the quantity and quality of communication across the three locations.

SECTION I – ANNUAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

Progress Report on FY 08 Goals

MSSW Curriculum Revision and Implementation. Three years ago the faculty of the MSSW program embarked on an ambitious endeavor to completely revise the two year curriculum. Committed to designing a leading edge curriculum to prepare graduates for the rapidly changing practice world, the new curriculum is rooted in concepts of critical thinking, evidenced-based practice, complexity, culturally-affirming practice, social and economic justice, and at-risk populations. The goal of the program is to prepare MSSW graduates to make great strides in improving the quality of life of at-risk and vulnerable populations not only across the state of Tennessee but across the nation and the world. The work of the faculty was guided by ongoing input and feedback from the CSW faculty, current and emerging CSWE accreditation standards, and environmental scans that involved input from social work field instructors, MSSW students, and agency heads. Leaders from across the social work spectrum were interviewed. Reports from the CSWE Commission on Curricular Excellence and Innovation and the report from the Social Work Congress 2005 informed the curriculum development process. This process has produced one of the most innovative MSSW curricula in the country.

- The college provided specialized training to all faculty in preparation for launching the new curriculum. Dr. Linda Elders, President and CEO of the Critical Thinking Foundation provided a two day training to faculty. Through the REACH-SW project funded by NIMH, the college provided training for all faculty on teaching evidence-based

practice. Teaching materials and CDs on evidence based practice were purchased for all faculty (for further information see Attachment 1-A, *Stimulus* Fall/Winter 2007 article).

- The first year of the new curriculum was offered Fall 2007. The second year of the new curriculum will be offered beginning Fall 2008. Student surveys and student meetings with the dean across all three campuses indicate that students are excited about the new curriculum and are more engaged in active learning (for further information see Attachment 1-B, *Stimulus* Spring/Summer 2007 article).

Continue to Increase International Initiatives. The College of Social Work has engaged in several international initiatives.

- The College has received funding from the US Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE) to create the North American Program for Social Work, Equity, and Social Welfare. This is the first time the US Department of Education has supported a social program under FIPSE (for further information see Attachment 1-C, *Stimulus* Spring/Summer 2007 article).
- The college has received funding through the International Association of Schools of Social Work to support a joint effort between the UT College of Social Work, University of Indonesia, Sunan in Yogyakarta, and the University of South Florida to develop child welfare supports and infrastructures for street children, particularly during times of disaster (for further information see Attachment 1-D, *Stimulus* Spring/Summer 2007 article).
- Dr. Rod Ellis taught a seminar on program evaluation in August 2007 for faculty at la Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon (for further information see Attachment 1-E, *Stimulus* Spring/Summer 2007 article).
- A UT MSSW graduate student created a unique program for youth of Tennessee migrant community (for further information see Attachment 1-E, *Stimulus* Spring/Summer 2007 article).
- The College is currently working on a grant proposal with Universidad Popular de la Chontalpa in Colima, Mexico to provide evidenced based training in disaster preparedness to social work providers.
- The College has developed and is offering an on-line course in comparative social policy between Mexico, Canada and the US students from all three countries are participating in the course.
- A study abroad opportunity to Tabasco, Mexico during spring break will offered to all social work students Spring 2008. Students will be working in a rural poor community in Mexico assisting the women's collective in developing implementation strategies for a banking loan program and micro business development.



- Fourteen international presentations were made by eight faculty at international conferences (for further information see Attachment 2).
- The Veterinary Social Work Program is planning an international conference – the first of its kind. The international conference will be held in Spring 08.

Redesign and Implement Curricular Revisions for Doctoral Program. A Ph.D. curriculum task force was appointed Summer 2007. The task force has reviewed materials relevant to doctoral education including the Carnegie Foundation Envisioning the Future of Doctoral Education. Current content has been reviewed and the task force is now in the process of making substantive recommendations to the faculty for change to the doctoral curriculum.

A new course for doctoral students “Pedagogy in Social Work” has been designed and is being offered for the first time Spring 2008.

Convince university to evidence its support of the social sciences by investing in the College by allocating funds to hire at least one top scholar with appreciable record of federal external funding in children’s mental health or children and families at risk.

This goal was not realized.

Development Campaign Priorities

- \$20 million to name the College of Social Work
- \$5 million to name the Children’s Mental Health Services Research Center
- \$3 million for a named endowed chair in the Children’s Center
- Two named endowed graduate fellowships (\$250,000 minimum each)
- \$500,000 as permanent addition to undergraduate scholarship fund



SECTION II LARGER PLANNING AND BUDGET CONCERNS

Key Opportunities and Challenges Related to Strategic Goals

Access for Students. Currently student recruitment is conducted by faculty. We are no longer the only MSW program in the state. As more MSW programs are being offered in Tennessee (Austin Peay, MTSU, ETSU, TSU, and Lincoln Memorial) recruitment has become a high priority for both quality applicants and to ensure a sufficient pool of applicants. A recruitment position, located centrally in Nashville, could engage in state-wide and recruitment and would help combat the encroachment we are now feeling from new MSW programs. Coupled with our new on-line program, a Recruiter and a Distance Education Coordinator could increase the number of graduate applicants to our programs on the three campuses.

The MSSW program is experiencing increasing encroachment from surrounding states now offering MSW degree programs with in-state tuition to Tennessee residents. The University of Tennessee, Chattanooga has received permission to charge in-state tuition plus 25% for Georgia residents and the University of Memphis has received permission to offer in-state tuition for residents of four Mississippi counties (DeSota, Tate, Marshall and Tunica counties). The College of Social Work is requesting permission to offer in-state tuition to students from states surrounding the Tennessee borders (for further information see Attachment 3, *The Commercial Appeal* 1/31/08 article).

Student Success in Achieving Progress and Appropriate Degrees. The college has a high retention rate. We have assessed our prerequisite requirements and eliminated obstacles for progression to the major. However, all advising at the undergraduate and graduate levels are done by faculty. The college is one of the few units on campus which does not have advising personnel. Advisors on each campus would promote student success through early identification and intervention system as well as promote timely progress toward degree completion.

Research Activity as Measured by Scholarly Output and Grant Activity. The College continues to be a leader on campus in external funding. The addition of one senior faculty member with an appreciable record of federal external funding in the area of children's mental health or children and families at risk would assist in creating a critical mass working in the college in this area (for further information see Attachment 4-A and 4-B, CMHSRC and SWOPRPS external funding reports).

Outreach to Ensure Accessibility to Greater Number of Citizens. As a means to compete with new MSW programs in Tennessee, the faculty has developed on-line courses (with some face-to-face contact). There is a dire need for a full-time distance education coordinator to 1) recruit, 2) coordinate, and 3) support technologically the on-line program. We expect that this aspect of our program will grow rapidly.

In Tennessee and other nearby southern states, there is a large cohort of clinical social workers interested in pursuing a doctorate in clinical social work, especially if the curriculum are to be delivered through flexible and nontraditional methods. The development of a clinical social work doctorate is consistent with trends emerging in other allied health professions such as nursing, physical therapy, and occupational therapy, which have begun to develop practice oriented doctoral degrees. Further, training of doctorate level advanced clinical social workers will serve to both improve the level and quality of clinical services delivery in the Southeast and enhance the perception of the profession by the general population. The College of Social Work is interested in developing a clinical social work doctorate. The focus of the proposed clinical social work doctorate will be to create stewards of the discipline of advanced clinical social work, individuals capable of developing new knowledge in the field, critiquing clinical practice theories, translating empirically validated



interventions for social work practice settings, and educating future clinical social work practitioners.

Globalization. The College is growing rapidly in international initiatives. We currently have a Department of Education grant through the Funds of Improvement of Secondary Education which provides for stipends for student exchange between the US, Canada, and Mexico. It does not pay for administrative coordination of the program. Additionally, we are in the process of developing international field placement sites and additional student exchange opportunities in Korea, Africa, and South America. Currently, a faculty member is attempting to coordinate these activities. However, we are expanding so quickly in this area that there is an urgent need for a position which can devote full-time attention to the development, implementation and coordination of international initiatives.



Initiatives Requiring Small Investment for Large Fairly Immediate Return

Recruitment. Currently student recruitment is conducted by faculty. We are no longer the only MSW program in the state. As more MSW programs are being offered in Tennessee (Austin Peay, MTSU, ETSU, TSU, and Lincoln Memorial) recruitment has become a high priority for both quality applicants and to ensure a sufficient pool of applicants. A recruitment position, located centrally in Nashville, could engage in state-wide and recruitment and would help combat the encroachment we are now feeling from new MSW programs.

Anticipated Personnel Cost: \$55,000/year plus benefits

Anticipated Operating Cost: \$ 6,000/year

Additional Senior Faculty Member with Track Record in Federal External Funding.

The college is a leader on campus in external funding. The addition of one additional faculty member with a experience in federal external funding in the area of children's mental health or children and families at risk would be a critical addition needed for critical mass working in this area. The cost expenditure would be small in comparison to the funding brought in to the university and the college.

Anticipated Personnel Cost: \$200,000/year plus benefits

Anticipated Equipment Cost: \$4,000

Addition of Two Ph.D. Clinical Faculty Members to Support Clinical Doctorate

Program. The college proposes the development and implementation of a clinical doctoral program. This program would admit approximately 30 students every three years. It is anticipated that 25-30 students in each 3-year cohort would graduate every three years. Graduate would provide clinical leadership in the state, engaging in research in evidence based practices and translational research.

Anticipated Personnel Cost: \$70,000/faculty member/year plus benefits

Anticipated Equipment Cost: \$8,000