

### **Report from BLP, Master's in Social Work (MSW) (from CEHHS)**

The Budget and Long Range Planning Committee (BLP) has discussed the proposed Master's in Social Work (MSW). We gave attention to the immediate and long-range enrollment prospects for this proposed degree program as well as the resource implications of the program's launch. We appreciate the cooperation of the faculty proposers from CEHHS and the assistance of the leadership within Extended Learning, which proved invaluable in allowing us to complete our work. BLP submits the following analysis of the impact of this program to the Academic Senate to guide senators in their consideration of the proposal.

This 60-unit program would be run as a self-support program through Extended Learning. MSW programs are subject to accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). CSWE accreditation is required for any MSW program whose graduates intend to apply "for licensure as a clinical social worker in California or any other state" (P-form, p. 16). The application for accreditation is currently underway.

#### **Program Demand:**

The P-form discusses likely demand for the program. For example, existing MSW programs throughout the CSU are enrolled at capacity and are turning students away:

"In fall 2010, system wide there were 5,925 applicants. Of those applicants, only 1,686 were offered admission. Although there is some duplication due to applications at multiple campuses, there are nonetheless a significant number of qualified applicants who were not admitted due to limited capacity" (MSW P-form, p. 21).

Survey research conducted at CSUSM indicates Sociology, Human Development, Liberal Studies, and Social Sciences as promising majors from which MSW applicants can be recruited (P-form, p. 21). While BLP members raised questions about job prospects for MSW candidates given contemporary budget cutbacks in the public and nonprofit sectors, the proposers and Extended Learning remain confident about the marketability of the degree. For example, the P-form cites Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projections indicating especially strong job growth in the field of social work through 2020 (p. 19). An email from Mike Schroder, Dean of Extended Learning, notes, "The BLS forecasts a 34% employment growth for healthcare social workers, 31% for mental health and substance abuse social workers, and 20% for child, family, and school social workers" (email from Dean Schroder, January 25, 2013). Locally, the San Diego Workforce Partnership projects "an 8.1 percent reported growth rate for social workers in San Diego County" (cited in P-form, p. 19).

In delivering a self-support program, it is critical that costs be accurately projected to establish a tuition and fee structure that provides sufficient program resources while also allowing the marketing of a cost-competitive program to students. Current projections estimate a tuition structure of \$475/unit (running \$28,500 for a 60-unit program), as well as a mandatory campus fee of \$477 for each semester in which a student enrolls in the program (P-form, p. 24, as updated by EL memo, 2/6/13).<sup>1</sup> Program proposers

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<sup>1</sup> According to EL Associate Dean Sarah Villarreal, "These campus-based mandatory fees include Academic Records, ASI, Athletics, and EL Technology Fee, and the Student Union fee." A full breakdown of these fees for EL students can be found at <http://www.csusm.edu/el/aboutus/fees.html>. The campus fees for students enrolled in state-support programs can be found at [http://www.csusm.edu/schedule/spring\\_2013/fees\\_and\\_charges.html](http://www.csusm.edu/schedule/spring_2013/fees_and_charges.html).

and Extended Learning officials are confident that this tuition/fee structure allows for the marketing of a cost-competitive program. When asked for follow-up information about the cost-competitiveness of the program, Extended Learning provided a detailed cost comparison, which is attached with this report.

*Accessibility Concerns:* The Department of Sociology provided a detailed review of the program proposal. One concern expressed was that the "packed curriculum" would disadvantage less financially secure students (Memo from Sociology). It should be noted that the program will provide both a full-time and a part-time option from its very first year. Sociology's memo also requested that EL and the program proposers work to build scholarships that would be available to financially disadvantaged students from underrepresented populations. While there is currently no line item in the Social Work budget to cover scholarships, students in this program will be eligible for financial aid available to students in stateside programs. Additionally, several financial aid programs exist specifically to support MSW students, including the California Social Work Education Center (CaSWEC), for which CSUSM's MSW students could become eligible beginning possibly as early as Year 2 of our program. Further, EL is currently exploring options to develop scholarship programs for students in self-support programs (MSW response memo, p. 3).

**Resource Implications:** This is a resource-intensive program, and a significant portion of costs is driven largely by accreditation requirements established and evaluated by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). For example, accreditation requirements specify Student-Faculty Ratios (SFRs) at 12:1 or below (P-form, p. 27). As a self-support program, all resources must be funded through tuition and fees. Thus, it is critical that program costs are carefully considered in advance of the program's launch. The draft budget developed by Extended Learning has been made available on BLP's Community page. We explore some of the critical resource requirements here.

#### *Faculty*

Searches for two tenure-track faculty positions (including one faculty position to serve as MSW Director) are currently underway;<sup>2</sup> if the program is approved by the Academic Senate and ultimately by the Chancellor's Office, a full-time lecturer will also be appointed to serve as Field Director before the program launches. Once the program is launched, CSWE requires that two more tenure-track faculty be hired by the start of its second year and that at least one more position must be added by its third year. Lecturer faculty will be hired as needed to cover individual classes.

#### *Space*

No labs or other "clinical facilities" have been requested for the program. The MSW will be offered through use of existing classrooms on the CSUSM campus, so Academic Planning & Resources (APR) will need to accommodate classroom requests within existing instructional space. The program will also

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<sup>2</sup> Per CSWE accreditation requirements, two tenure-track faculty positions must be in place before the program launches. Should the Senate decline to approve the program, the faculty searches will be cancelled; should the program be approved by CSUSM but delayed past Fall 2013 (for example, pending approval from the Chancellor's Office), the Dean of CEHHS and the Interim Provost have agreed that the tenure-track faculty members hired would teach courses for Human Development, also within the College of Education & Health & Human Services. It should also be noted that the CBA does allow that if no program exists for tenure-track faculty members to offer, then layoff procedures could potentially be implemented for such faculty. Questions have been raised about whether the Director will be hired as a faculty or MPP position: according to CEHHS Dean Janet Powell, this will be a faculty position.

require substantial office space to accommodate anticipated hires (6 full-time faculty positions plus lecturers by the program's third year of operation, as well as 1 staff support position). The offices will be assigned from within University Hall; a consultative process within CEHHS is currently underway for assigning office spaces for faculty and staff throughout University Hall.<sup>3</sup>

### *Staff*

The program will require 1 full-time staff support position, to be funded by Extended Learning. While tenure-track faculty members and the assigned Field Director will carry significant advising responsibilities, students' degree advising will be provided by staff within Extended Learning. According to EL's Dean Schroder, 2 full-time staff members from Extended Learning will be available to work with MSW students.

### *Library*

Library database subscriptions have been a matter of ongoing discussion between the program champions and the Library. Research conducted by the Library indicates that a fully-funded program could require up to \$26,000/year in subscription fees (*not* allowing for standard inflationary rate increases). Based on consultation with curriculum consultants from SDSU and further discussions with the Library and the program's faculty champions, Extended Learning has currently budgeted \$12,524/year for the first 5 years of the program,<sup>4</sup> but this number would need to be revisited after incoming faculty members can be consulted. Library faculty and staff will monitor usage of research materials as well as Inter-Library Loan (ILL) and other assistance requests to evaluate whether/how the subscriptions and support services need to be expanded.

### *IITS*

Per the existing Extended Learning's existing MOU with CSUSM, IITS services are funded by "Direct chargeback for pre-approved services on a billed-quarterly basis (to include both instructional and administrative services)." Also, "Added contract services are paid separately."

**Potential Impact on Other Programs:** The Department of Sociology expressed concerns that launching an MSW at CSUSM could reduce demand for the existing Master's in Sociological Practice (MASP) degree as well as the B.A. in Sociology if "undergraduates assume a line of progress from an HD B.A. to the MSW" (Memo from SOC). MSW champions responded to a request from SOC that CEHHS make clear "how program leaders and advisers will distinguish the MSW from the MASP degree when they are asked to do so by prospective students" (Memo from SOC). As noted by MSW champions, MSW students will be recruited from a range of undergraduate majors (rather than just HD); the MSW champions also urged collaboration between SOC and MSW to help Undergraduate Advising Services and Career Center staff to understand the difference between the theoretical, research-oriented MASP and the direct practice and clinically-oriented MSW degree (MSW response memo).

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<sup>3</sup> At BLP's request, CEHH's Dean Powell provided a breakdown of anticipated office space needs across CEHHS and available within University Hall as the building is renovated over the next several years. According to the Dean's office and as reviewed by BLP, the planned renovation of University Hall will result in sufficient office space to house all tenure-track faculty within CEHHS into the next several years. According to Dean Powell, office space for tenure-track and lecturer faculty as well as staff will be allocated through a consultative process to include the entire College.

<sup>4</sup> Depending on enrollment demand, in Year 2 one or both of the two concentrations will be offered: 1) Behavioral Health; and 2) Children, Youth, and Families. It is anticipated that any optional specializations (and resulting Library subscription needs) will evolve as the first cohorts move through the program and as the program builds out.

## Masters of Social Work

Total Units	School (CSU/California)	Length	*Total Cost: Tuition	Per Semester	per unit
63	CSU Chico	2	\$ 16,412.00	\$ 4,103.00	\$ 260.51
60	CSU Dominguez Hill	2	\$ 12,696.00	\$ 3,174.00	\$ 211.60
60	CSU Fullerton	2	\$ 13,476.00	\$ 3,369.00	\$ 224.60
60	CSU Long Beach	2	\$ 13,476.00	\$ 3,369.00	\$ 224.60
63	CSU Northridge	2	\$ 13,860.00	\$ 3,465.00	\$ 220.00
60	CSU Sacramento	2	\$ 10,944.00	\$ 2,736.00	\$ 182.40
60	Humboldt State University	2	\$ 12,696.00	\$ 3,174.00	\$ 211.60
60	San Diego State University	2	\$ 15,688.00	\$ 3,922.00	\$ 261.47
54	San Jose State University	2	\$ 13,476.00	\$ 3,369.00	\$ 249.56
60	UC Berkeley	2	\$ 56,940.00		\$ 949.00
78	Loma Linda University	2	\$ 51,480.00		\$ 660.00
60	USC	2	\$ 85,200.00		\$ 1,420.00
60	Azusa Pacific University	2	\$ 33,600.00		\$ 560.00
	<b>Average 2 year program</b>		<b>\$ 26,918.77</b>		<b>\$ 433.49</b>

Total Units	School (National)	Length	Cost: Tuition		per unit
61	Hawaii Pacific University	2 yrs.	44,835		735
50	University of Denver	1 or 2 yrs.	40,000		800
60	Morgan State University	2 yrs.	24,000		400
71	Boston College	3 or 4 yrs.	63,900		900
60	New Mexico State University	2 or 3 or 4 yrs.	40,020		667
60	Arizona State University	2 or 3 yrs.	36,000		600
60	Millersville University	2 or 4 yrs.	25,200		420
52	Walla Walla University	2yrs.	27,820		535
	<b>Average 2 year program</b>		<b>\$ 37,721.88</b>		<b>\$ 632.13</b>
	<b>Average CSU/CA/National</b>		<b>\$ 33,819.52</b>		<b>\$ 612.26</b>

60	***CSU San Marcos Graduate Tuition		\$ 13,476.00	\$ 3,369.00	\$ 224.60
60	EL MSW		\$ 28,500.00		\$ 475.00

\*Total cost of tuition based on 4 academic semesters including summer term

\*\*Most CSU MSW programs are funding by state support

\*\*\*Tuition based on Fall 2012 Tuition and Fees

\*San Marcos will be the only self support 2 year program