

MINUTES

Faculty of Social Work

MSW Curriculum, Admissions, Field and Student Affairs Committee (CAFSAC)

Wednesday April 18, 2018

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Room 209

Present: Yumna Al-Adeimi, Ann Curry-Stevens, Nancy Freymond (Chair), Cara Grosset, Nancy Schwindt, Nancy Singer, Brooke-Anne Willis, Meghan Horton (Secretary)

Regrets: Dawn Buzza, Jagdeep Chahal, Michelle Corbett, Ben Hesch, Karun Karki, Kasey Lohnes, Deborah Russell, Rose Torres, Melissa Von Hatten-Baer, OASW Representative (TBD)

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair initiated a round table introduction of all members in attendance.

2. **Approval of Agenda of Wednesday April 18, 2018**

(Freymond, Grosset)

Carried

3. **Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2018**

Amendment: Yumna Al-Adeimi needs to be added to the minutes as present at the March 8 meeting.

(Freymond, Schwindt)

Carried

4. **Students Update**

The March 28 Navigating Social and Legal Systems workshop had a low turnout but feedback reported that attendees really enjoyed it. Students would have preferred that an email be sent directly to field instructors because they did not feel comfortable going to them directly to ask for the day off to attend the workshop.

Nancy Singer has feedback forms that she will pass on to Nancy F to review. Feedback showed that students would have preferred a full day workshop and would have liked someone from family law to attend. Nancy Singer indicated that more lead-time was required and Nancy F suggested they start working on next year's event now.

The FSW received \$7000 from the Graduate Enhancement Fund and this funding will be used to enhance the student lounge. The focus of the enhancements will be wellness and Nancy F will be contacting the Wellness Centre to have an assessment done for feedback and advice. The lounge updates will be completed by fall.

The Student Ideas for Change draft report is complete but will not be circulated until Brooke and Ann have reviewed it and prioritized short-term activities to begin to initiate change. This report was based on feedback from students in the following ways:

- Three question survey (what should we do more of, less of, and stop doing immediately)
- Listening sessions (themes of field placement, international field placement, student health and wellness and curriculum)
- SK609 Community building exercises

Themes that emerged were interest in increased relationships with classmates and faculty, yearning for mechanisms to bring people together, space, course coordination across sections, and decolonizing the process of education.

5. Admissions Update: Nancy F reported in Deb's absence.

There have been 52 offers to the online program, 101 offers to the full-time program and 27 offers to the advanced standing program. There have been 5 accepted offers to the Indigenous PhD program starting in the fall.

6. Field Education Update

Update on field events:

- March 15 Field Fair: NIRE committee recommendation that allowed students to share their personal experiences in placement with other students. This was a fairly well attended event with pizza lunch for everyone. This gave great insight to the field office as to what students need to think about that otherwise may not have considered. This will be an annual event.
- March 28 Visioning Day: The BSW and MSW field teams met with the Dean, BSW and MSW Associate Deans, and Senior Administrative officer to focus on big picture ideas for field, what is being experienced now and how we can better collaborate. This was the first of a series of meetings that will take place over the next year.
- March 29 Graduation event: This event has been postponed/potentially cancelled because the IFS students were not available to participate. The field office will work more diligently next year to ensure a date that can accommodate students from all programs.

There are 6 students participating in the International Social Work Program (ISWP) and the field office is currently connecting them with agencies to facilitate the process.

The field office is currently in recruitment mode for spring and fall placements. The portal closes on April 19 and the matching/interview process will begin. There were many successful student proposals and only about 80 placements for students are still required. The field office's goal is to place students with an opportunity in their top 5 rankings.

7. *Contract Academic Staff Update*

Nancy F clarified that CAS instructors need to be aware that only the instructor of record will receive a seniority point for online courses. Teaching Assistants will not receive a seniority point.

Kasey Lohnes passed on information she received from a CAS instructor about issues related to classroom sizes. Feedback indicated that there are too many students in each section and the physical class is not large enough to accommodate the number of people in the room. Nancy F indicated that the classroom cap is 30 and our average class size is 18-21 students. There does not seem to be a way to reduce class capacity, and the reviewers that were on sight were impressed that our numbers were so low compared to the average of 45-50 in other programs. This will be an ongoing discussion that will require more feedback from instructors and students.

8. *Field Instructors Update*

Renison is setting up an online platform that is similar to the idea of a community of practice that Nancy Singer was speaking about in an earlier CAFSAC meeting. WLU was invited to participate as facilitators and Yumna will share an update at May's CAFSAC meeting.

9. *OASW Update:* No updates – OASW representative yet to be named for 2017-2018.

Nancy Singer has a couple connections on the board and will touch base with them about a representative for CAFSAC.

10. *Program Update:* Nancy F reported in Deb's absence

Hiring announcements will be made soon. Offers have been made and negotiations are currently in progress.

Admissions subcommittee is being co-chaired by Nancy F and Abdel Elkchirid and the first meeting will be in May to set the Terms of Reference. The committee will specifically look at current admissions procedures at WLU and elsewhere, best practices, and balancing applications.

11. *Review of Qualifications for Instructors*

Motion:

For all non-indigenous Master's course offerings: that qualifications required be a Master's degree, that qualifications discipline be social work or related, and that qualifications other be specified as PhD Degree an asset.

For the doctoral program: that SK 699 and SK701 have qualifications required as a doctoral degree near completion, and that qualifications discipline be social work or related.

For all other doctoral courses: that qualifications required be Doctoral degree required and that qualifications discipline be in social work or related.

Amendment: SK 701 and SK 702 should have completed PhD Degree an asset as qualifications other and SK 541, SK 649 and SK 650 should have as per accreditation standards as qualifications required.

(Freymond, Cara)

Carried

Committee discussed potential of requiring an MSW instead of social work or related as the qualifications discipline at length. Nancy F outlined that social workers are prioritized in hiring but that by designating an MSW as a requirement limits the hiring pool and potential for excellent instructors from various backgrounds. In addition, adding PhD Degree as an asset is also problematic as this is upping the qualification demands and has implications for CAS. Committee agreed that this is a larger conversation that can be revisited next year after the PTAC process to see if the current qualifications should be amended.

12. Motion: That CAFSAC approve the proposed course description change to SK 632R:

Expressive Arts-Based Group work for Children and Adolescents

(Freymond, Willis)

Carried

Committee recommended that SK 509 be included as a pre-requisite course since this course is building on group dynamics. It was also recommended that the description be amended slightly to reflect considerations of critical social work practice within the field of expressive arts.

Ann noted her frustration with having to approve course description changes without reviewing the course syllabus.

13. Feedback from Navigating Social and Legal Systems workshop with Mississauga Community Legal Services - covered in students update

14. Draft report: results of student feedback – covered in students update

15. Online MSW Program: Field Planning Process

The intakes for the online program will be 52 in May and then will target 80 in each subsequent term, with three intakes a year. Currently international applications are being limited but we currently have a couple outside of Canada (United States and Australia), which will be a good way to see how to facilitate this process internationally.

The online model has two parts that will be piloted to students in May:

- Placements will be a student directed process. Students will propose their own placements that they have developed and finalized themselves. This can include workplace placements.

- Students will be completing one placement for both SK541 and SK649 instead of the current model of two separate placements. Online students will still have the option to complete two but will be required to propose both.

Historically, students in the in-class program have been required to complete two separate placements at different agencies. Field has recently allowed students to complete their second (advanced) placement at the same agency as long as the agency can provide new learning opportunities. A new location does not necessarily mean new learning and this can grow our placement office with new opportunities if agencies see their current placement students fitting in other areas of their organization. This will be a larger conversation as the online program develops and a system may need to be developed that is consistent across all programs.

The learning plan needs to be re-evaluated in order to reflect the differences between foundational and advanced placements. Nancy Singer agrees that the learning plan needs a more critical lens.

Next Meeting: TBD