

Department of Social Work

Department Meeting

Minutes (approved)

3.14.2023

1-2:30 pm Swart 303

Attendees: Matthew Ringenberg, Jim Power, Kate Short-Meyerson, Colleen Hansen, Audra Eggum, Nicole Schneider, Renee Pasewald, Jon Hudson, Amy Fischer Williams, Mary Weeden

Guest: Lisa Volkening, PHD from UWO sustainability institute. Discussion of new sustainability certificates particularly in connection to the UWO MSW program. This is an inter departmental program made to integrate with multiple departments and augments existing curriculum to enhance student skills but not extend time to degree. Dr. Volkening is seeking suggestions for SW classes which may fit in with the certificate program. This is a new program that is looking to recruit students. Faculty can provide a syllabus for any classes which are suggested to be a good fit. Until a standard is set through shared governance, curriculum modifications can be used to award students the certificate upon graduation. Discussion of Sustainability certificate for MSW students. Soc Work 726- grad class that specifically addresses sustainability of social work. Consideration of its feasibility for the department and usefulness to students. Jon has made adjustments to the Environmental Justice elective in a way which would make it relevant across the SW spectrum; therefore it could easily be tooled to those outside the department. Matthew: we have existing MSW courses that have environmental and ecological components. Would it be possible to dual list those classes for upper level undergraduates in order to expand enrollment., Colleen: if dual listed, then BSW seniors could take these because we can't offer any BSW electives independently. Sustainability office is collecting syllabi, then they will handle establishing the certificate. The department will be responsible for making any MSW classes dual listed. The two offices will be in contact.

a. Approve Previous Minutes. Kate moves, Colleen seconds. Mary abstains, all others favor. Motion carries.

Announcement: Content on diversity. If you have not yet shared content on diversity in courses, please do so by the end of the week. (Matthew, Colleen). If you have questions let Matthew or Jim know by March 17

b. Brainstorming. Select topics to discuss. Possible options below. We will return to and possibly add to this as we resolve some of it.

c. Big picture issues

- i. Size of student body *tabled*
- ii. Focus / Foci of BSW and/or MSW *tabled*

d. More specific issues

- i. Reviewing our documents *tabled*
- ii. Program evaluation as department promotion *tabled*

iii. Communicating outside opportunities to students. Colleen: Have website and emails on Continuing Ed and Job Opps. She sends to Renee to post on website/facebook. Vet as possible to ensure we aren't directing students to false opportunities. Aubri can be good resource on removing expired opportunities.

iv. Formalize admissions committee sharing *tabled*

v. Protocols for changing field placements. *tabled*

vi. Summer retreat. *tabled*

vii. Increase salaries. Ideas on how to develop a long term strategy. Discussed:

- Department should seek a practical picture of what 2% budget cut will look like (e.g. furloughs, buy-outs); knowing this will help determine what long-term strategies are feasible.
- Review of advising reassignment of BSW program and how to best advocate for maintaining the current advising assignment.
 - 1. educate deans office on nature of professional program- accreditation, licensure.
 - That there are guidelines that department must follow and
 - Licensure and accreditation is good for UWO.
 - Decide where department best fits within UWO.
 - Create an exit survey to gather feedback.
 - Develop relationships with admissions

viii. Certificates or add designations. *tabled*

ix. To what extent are we responsive or not to the fentanyl crisis in our region. Its significant and as SW responsibility to address it. Can be laced in recreational drugs. Narcan availability. How are we prepping for this crisis of addiction and overdose. Action on how this is addressed- as overdose. People who are using recreational drugs to an ordinarily non-lethal degree but are using drugs which are laced with more extreme drugs. This would more accurately be a poisoning and should be presented as such to avoid the usual stigma of overdose. Is the process to address those caught in the cross hairs of addiction and poisoned drugs. Or is it to address the systemic causes which lead to addiction and drug use. Curriculum should reflect the environment in which we live. Grants available on Narcan training and distribution. How do we make it easy to communicate what we do on this topic? How can we as a department support classroom learning on this? UWOPD has overdose prevention training. Can we make narcan training a requirement for graduation. There is a void between the environment of fentanyl misuse and the existing curriculum. There is a virtual option to attend this. Do we want to invite presentations into classrooms or sponsor an event as department. Partner with SSWA to get student perspective. Ask campus police how our department can partner with them. What would that look like? This gives us an idea of what a productive partnership could look like. Start by reaching out to SSWA and campus police do we look at classroom lines or field or Matthew can reach out to UWOPD and Colleen will reach out to SSWA. Jim suggests Winnebago county

1. Title IVE. *tabled*

ix. Broader recruiting strategies *tabled*

x. Shift SW 708 and 728 to regular semesters. *Tabled*

Motion to Adjourn.

Adjourned at 2:30pm

Respectfully Submitted

Renee Pasewald Administrative Assistant II