

APPENDIX F

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master's Degree in Social Work at Fayetteville State University

Introduction

The Board of Governors gave FSU authorization to plan a master's degree in Social Work (CIP# 44.0701) in Long-Range Planning 2000-2005. The university requests authorization to establish the program in August 2003.

Program Description

The proposed Master of Social Work degree program, to be housed in a new Department of Social Work, will prepare students for professional social work practice with a focus on issues concerning children, families, mental health and substance abuse. The program will prepare students to practice with individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations in rural and urban settings. Program graduates will engage in prevention, treatment, intervention, clinical practice, research, and administration activities that promote human well being. The curriculum will prepare students for advance social work practice in one of two areas of concentration: Children and Family Services or Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

Program Need

The FSU service region (10 counties) has complex features of rural and urban social problems, including teenage pregnancy, low birth weight babies, infant mortality, violent deaths, child abuse and neglect, mental illness, substance abuse, and a significant proportion of the population living below the poverty level. In addition, the presence of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base in the region presents unique needs. Feasibility studies and local agencies indicate that the FSU service region lacks the number of master's level social workers needed. The potential pool of students for the program includes in-service educators and social workers, military, and retired persons. Three institutions in the region (UNCP, Campbell University, and Methodist College) have accredited BSW degrees that would serve as feeder programs for the MSW program. A survey of 244 persons currently working in social service agencies in the FSU service region indicated that only 5.6 percent held the MSW degree, although 62.4 percent of those without the degree were interested in an MSW program. According to the 2000-2001 *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, employment for social workers is expected to "increase faster than average for all occupations through the year 2008." By the fourth year, FSU anticipates enrollment of 40 full-time and 15 part-time students.

Resources

Additional faculty positions will be required. The MSW program is a high priority for FSU, and the Chancellor has made a commitment to provide the necessary resources from internal reallocations. One new faculty member was hired in fall 2001 and FSU will provide an additional position for fall 2002. The University is committed to providing the four additional faculty positions needed for accreditation from University resources. No new state resources will be used except those coming from enrollment funding growth. (Authorization for the program is requested a year in advance of its establishment to allow time for program planning and implementation.)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Social Work degree at Fayetteville State University effective August 1, 2003, with the understanding that the graduate program will have at least four full-time faculty members prior to enrolling students.