

BSW Advisory Committee Meeting
January 30, 2019
Minutes – Approved version

Present: Julia Krane, Michael MacKenzie, Zack Marshall, Vincent Mousseau, Pam Orzeck, Maria Pacheco, Tamara Sussman, Marion Van Horn

Regrets: Francine Granner

Approval of Minutes from October 17, 2018 – Approved

1) Report from BSW Student Representative:

Course related discussion

- ⇒ Discussion of some challenges expressed by student representative
- ⇒ Discussion of mentorship and support for new instructors and the challenges of teaching large groups of students.
- ⇒ Julia offered to offer supportive follow-up

Townhall Discussion:

- ⇒ Students are aiming for a BSW townhall in the second week of March at which time they hope to bring forward questions or concerns. Initial plan was for Julia and Pam to attend the town hall meeting in their roles as BSW Program and Field Education directors. Other members of the Advisory committee indicated that they would be more than willing to attend and would not want to leave students with the impression that they did not care about this meeting.
- ⇒ Vince suggested an approach in which students would have some time by themselves in discussion first, and then BSW program faculty members could potentially join for the latter part of the discussion.
- ⇒ Student leadership is hoping to do a full-day of activities that includes a townhall and a general assembly

2) U2 Field Placement Prerequisites:

Julia presented and clarified the requirements needed for students to begin the U2 field placement as follows: Students must have completed a minimum number of 24 credits to begin the second year (U2) field placement. These 24 credits are comprised of all U1 required courses (SWRK 220, SWRK 221, SWRK 224, SWRK 222, and SWRK 223) and any combination of SWRK complementary, Social Science complementary, and/or Electives courses totalling 24 credits.

- ⇒ The above information clarifies for students and cohort advisors what is needed to enter U2 field placement.

3) SWRK 224 – can a CEGEP course suffice as acceptable as a prerequisite to the MSW?

There is a lack of clarity around whether or not a CEGEP Human Development Across the Lifespan course can be accepted as a prerequisite for entry into the MSW program; currently, the BSW program accepts a CEGEP Human Development Across the Lifespan course as permitting an exemption from SWRK 224 but a Human Development Across the Lifespan course at the university level is required as a prerequisite into the MSW at McGill.

- ⇒ Some advisory committee members recalled that a Human Development Across the Lifespan course is no longer a prerequisite for entry into the MSW at McGill and recalled that this was voted on at a Faculty meeting approximately 2 years ago.
- ⇒ Zack to follow up with a review of the minutes of the faculty meeting at which this item was discussed (and decided?)

4) Revising list of Social Science complementary courses:

Julia shared her observation that some U1 students face challenges in registering for some of the social science complementary course requirements for the BSW program: All U2/returning students across ALL faculties, departments and programs at McGill are permitted to register weeks earlier than ALL U1 students across faculties, departments and programs; this problem is not unique for BSW U1 students

- ⇒ This means many social science courses are already full, and since taking social science courses in U2 when in field, some BSW U1 students are taking social science courses in U1 that may not be the courses they would have most liked to take or have been the most valuable to them.
- ⇒ Julia will continue to work with Enrolment Services and Arts Oasis to address this challenge, and, has generated a proposal to expand the social sciences list in a way that might help with this problem.

Given the above challenge for BSW U1 students, Julia questioned the social sciences program requirements in the context of the CASWE standards for accreditation. She reported that the CASWE requires 40% of a BSW to be comprised of general or liberal arts education. This amounts to 48 credits, but ALL BSW students already get 30 credits (either through CEGEP or U0), leaving only 18 credits needed to fulfill the CASWE standard.

- ⇒ Currently, our BSW students are expected to complete 21 non-SWRK credits - 15 credits of social sciences & 6 elective credits
- ⇒ We have the opportunity to reduce these non-SWRK credits by 3 credits (from 21 to 18 credits)
- ⇒ Julia proposed reducing to 18 open credits of generalist education with the requirement being at least 3 in one discipline, or 2 at 300 level or higher.
- ⇒ This would leave 3 credits as either an SWRK complementary course OR a social sciences complementary course OR an elective

- ⇒ Julia gave the example of a student wishing to complete an 18 credit Minor in Hispanic Studies as preparation for engaging in social work practice in Latin America. This student could then use those 3 credits for an additional language course, for example.
- ⇒ If indeed there is no specific need for “social sciences” for CASWE standards for accreditation, then could all 18 credits be “electives”? Julia to find out.
- ⇒ GOAL: to develop a proposal for a program change to reduce the 21 non-SWRK credits to 18 credits (ensuring this is okay for a BSW within the Faculty of Arts) and then revising the list or doing away with the list – to be brought to upcoming Faculty meeting for discussion and vote

5) Review of courses that have prerequisites:

Julia reported that about 16 U1 BSW students entered the BSW with 18 transfer credits. This means that almost all of their social sciences and electives have been satisfied (except for 3 credits). Some of these students have been interested in completing their BSW degree in 5 terms if possible, but there are programmatic rules in place that seem to prevent them from moving forward especially between U1 & U2, and U2 & U3. This problem also exists with students who wish to study abroad – they find it a challenge to work out their BSW courses because of restrictions on SWRK complementary courses and prerequisites. To this end, Julia presented a list of courses that have prerequisites as follows:

Courses that currently list a prerequisite	Currently identified prerequisites
SWRK 326, Practice with Individuals & Families 2	SWRK 320, Practice with Individuals & Families 1
SWRK 327, Approaches to Community Practice	SWRK 321, Intro to Practice with Groups
SWRK 323, Field Practice 2	SWRK 322, Field Practice 1
SWRK 325 Anti-Oppression SW Practice	SWRK 223 Poverty and Inequality
SWRK 420 Advanced Field Practice 1	SWRK 323 Field Practice 2
SWRK 422 Integrative Seminar 2	SWRK 323 Field Practice 2 & SWRK 344 *
SWRK 424 Mental Health and Illness	SWRK 326 Practice with Individuals and Families 2
SWRK 428 Social Policy & Administration	SWRK 327 Approaches to Community Practice
SWRK 445 First Peoples and Social Work	SWRK 220 History and Philosophy of Social Work
SWRK 525 Critical Thought & Ethics in SW	SWRK 325 Anti-Oppression Social Work Practice

* SWRK 422 Integrative Seminar 2 - Add SWRK 344 Integrative Seminar 1 as a prerequisite because SWRK 344 is currently showing on Minerva as a prerequisite for SWRK 422.

The committee discussed revising prerequisites as follows:

- ⇒ Change prerequisite for SWRK 424 from 326 to 320
- ⇒ Remove prerequisite of 321 for SWRK 327

- ⇒ Change prerequisite for SWRK 428 from SWRK 327 and add SWRK 221
- ⇒ SWRK 344 Integrative Seminar 1 - Add SWRK 322 field practice 1 as prerequisite and require SWRK 323 Field practice 2 to be concurrent
- ⇒ SWRK 422 Integrative Seminar 2 - Add SWRK 344 Integrative Seminar 1 as a prerequisite

Julia to follow up with all lecturers of above courses for their thoughts on proposed changes.

Julia to confirm whether this is considered as a program change and what the process for shifting will be so we can be at a decision step for next committee meeting.

6) Definition of “social work related experience” for incoming students:

Mike agreed to take a crack at drafting updates to the CV form (for e.g. some specification about transferable skills to SW) and the personal statement form (for e.g., opening language to refer to experience from work and/or lived experience to acknowledge students who don't have flexibility of not doing paid work that may not be relevant to social work).

Meeting Adjourned: 4:40
Respectfully prepared and submitted by M.J. MacKenzie