Last one for a while, Briggs. This is a proposal to deliver an off-campus MSW at ADAMH—ready to go...

Best,

e
Elliot –

Hope your summer is going well. I mentioned to you a few weeks ago that we have been approached to extend our FCCS programming to the Franklin County ADAMH board. If approved we anticipate either a Summer or Fall 2009 start. I have attached our proposal for your review and submission to the gauntlet. Please let me know what I need to do next in terms of getting approvals.

Thanks

Tom

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Tom Gregoire, MSW, PhD
Associate Dean
MSW Program Director
The Ohio State University
College of Social Work
(p) 614-292-9426
(f) 614-288-6940
Dear Tom,

At today’s meeting of the Curriculum Committee of the Graduate Council your proposal for extending your off-campus MSW program to ADAMH was discussed. While supportive of the outreach effort that you propose “in principle,” there was one general concern raised that has not emerged in prior versions of your off-campus MSW delivery. Specifically, given the proximity of ADAMH to OSU’s campus, as well as the requirement that students initially matriculating through our Wright State collaboration or on our regional campuses must take some course work on the Columbus campus, why would not a similar requirement, however minimal, be imposed on this cohort of off-campus students. At bottom, it was felt that such a cross fertilization requirement would blunt the likely homogeneity of the ADAMH cohort while the enhanced diversity of an on-campus course experience would be beneficial for all concerned—the Columbus campus student body and the ADAMH cohort. In effect, the Committee felt that not requiring this of your earlier MSW off-campus cohort at Franklin County Children’s service may have been ill considered, the acknowledged success of that program notwithstanding.

The Committee will return to the vetting of this proposal when it receives your response to this one concern. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

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elliot
Hi Elliot –

Thanks for the update. The committee has raised a good point, and one that I think we have dealt with rather effectively in our prior iteration.

From the beginning of the FCCS cohort we were also concerned about homogeneity. We addressed that in two ways. (1) Students came to main campus to take at least some of their four electives, and about 35 percent of the cohort had to come to main campus to take required courses we did not provide at FCCS. We typically offered only a single elective at the off-campus site, so virtually all of the students got here for one or more of their elective courses. (2) With the homogeneity issue in mind we made the off-site location available to all of our students and advertised it to the student population at enrollment. Students outside the FCCS cohort attended many of the courses offered at FCCS, particularly the advanced ones, because of the convenience of both the time schedule and the location. We had anticipated a similar approach with this latest effort. If the committee has further concerns, or desires a more formalized approach I would be happy to discuss alternatives approaches.

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Best,
elliott
Elliot

I’ve attached a modified proposal. The change is described in paragraph seven. Thanks for moving this along.

TG

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Dena Myers

From: Tom Gregoire [gregoire.5@osu.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2008 8:57 AM
To: Elliot Slotnick
Cc: 'Lisa Durham'
Subject: RE:
Attachments: Franklin County ADAMH Board.doc

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elliot

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From: Tom Gregoire [mailto:gregoire.5@osu.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2008 4:46 PM
To: Tom Gregoire
Cc: Dena Myers; Lisa Durham
Subject: RE:

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The Committee will return to the vetting of this proposal when it receives your response to this one concern. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Best,

elliot
Dear Tom,

Just a brief note to let you know that the Graduate Council approved your proposal to extend the off-campus Master’s of Social Work programming to the ADAMH site that you requested. I should note that there was continued discussion of the issue that had been raised in the Curriculum Committee. That is, broadly, a generalized concern that the university not go down the road of fostering diversity in numbers through programs that, as administered, are not, necessarily, meeting diversity goals. Clearly, the explicit rule that you have provided in this instance will help to keep that from happening to, at least, some degree.

I am forwarding the proposal on to Randy Smith (through his assistant, Briggs Cormier) and they will be overseeing the final approval stage in this process.

Best,
elliott
The Ohio State University  
College of Social Work  
Proposal for Extending Off Campus Master of Social Work Programming

In 2004 the College of Social Work implemented an off campus offering of its MSW program at the offices of the Franklin County Children’s Services (FCCS). That proposal represented an effort to enhance the diversity of our student body, to increase enrollment, and to meet the need for masters prepared social workers in child welfare. The program experienced tremendous success. The first cohort enrolled 24 students and 23 of those students earned their MSW. A number of students in that cohort won academic scholarships and honors and one student was selected by our faculty from among 180 graduates as the Outstanding Clinical Social Work Student of the Year. The FCCS cohort contributed significantly to the diversity of our student body by enrolling a higher percentage of African-American students than our general student population. Finally, two staff and a faculty member received a Community Advocate Award from Franklin County Children’s services for the contribution this program made to child welfare services in Franklin County.

Having learned of the success of the FCCS initiative the Franklin County Alcohol Drug and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board is seeking a similar arrangement for its member agencies. The ADAMH Board seeks to increase both the number and diversity of MSW practitioners providing mental health services in Franklin County. They believe this initiative may address significant concerns with employee retention at many of its member agencies. After a number of meetings with the ADAMH Board and representatives of member agencies we are proposing to extend the FCCS program model to courses taught at the ADAMH board.

This endeavor would meet a number of needs for the community and for the College of Social Work. Providing an opportunity for students to earn their degree at this location will meet an important community need to increase the availability of masters prepared social workers in mental health settings. Approval of this program will allow the College to increase revenues via enrollment of an additional 20 to 25 students. The College has sufficient cash to reimburse both adjunct faculty and regular faculty who teach overload at this location, and as noted the enrollment increase will enhance College revenues. In addition to providing a needed resource to the community, the College of Social Work will benefit from the anticipated increased diversity and the fiscal rewards of higher part-time student enrollment. Our responsiveness to the need identified in the FCCS program reaped considerable goodwill in the community, we anticipate this effort would do the same.

Our experience has shown that many students benefit from evening and off-site programming in order to accommodate the demands of our graduate social work programming while also maintaining their employment. As our FCCS cohort demonstrated the students we select for the program are highly motivated and capable of the rigors of graduate school. Field placements, when they occur in the curriculum, will be integrated within the member agencies. In terms of time commitment the two field placements, totaling 1,024 hours, are the most demanding portion of our program. That requirement alone is a frequent deterrent to individuals who might have low incomes, be single parents, or have other fiscal constraints. We have worked with a number
of agencies to develop job sharing agreements that will allow students to complete field placements without having to leave their employment. As it did for our FCCS students this approach will allow a number of students to earn their MSW degree who otherwise could not afford graduate school thus furthering the diversity of our student population.

This proposal is consistent with accreditation standards for graduate social work programs. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredits the College of Social Work. The College has consulted via telephone with a CSWE accreditation specialist who indicated that the program as designed is consistent with accreditation guidelines and would require no further review.

The program is similar to our current 3-4 year part-time program. Students will meet with the MSW academic advisor and complete a written educational plan that establishes time-lines and required course sequences. All students will be assigned to a tenure track faculty for other advisement activities. The courses are taught from a pool of tenure track and adjunct faculty who regularly teach in the MSW curriculum on our Columbus and regional campuses. As an incentive, and to compensate faculty for leaving campus to teach, we will reimburse faculty who chose to teach overload at a rate slightly higher than that of the Columbus campus.

While students will take most of their coursework at the ADAMH facility, we recognize the value of interacting with students from other practice disciplines. Virtually all of the students in the FCCS cohort came to campus to take one or more course. We also had students attend courses on the FCCS site who were not a member of that cohort. In addition to capitalizing on these natural opportunities this cohort will be required to take a minimum of three credit hours on the Columbus campus. The MSW office will monitor this requirement.

The College of Social Work’s Educational Policy Committee approves all syllabi including learning objectives and evaluation approaches. All courses taught at ADAMH will employ faculty-approved syllabi. All instructors will be evaluated by the standard OSU teaching assessment tool. The College of Social Work has an exit survey, completed online, to assess programmatic learning outcomes. We will assess individual course learning outcomes via the same methods as employed on the main campus.

The Graduate Studies Committee of the College of Social Work monitors all academic programs, and the MSW program office currently monitors retention rates. The use of tenure track faculty, and approved adjunct faculty will insure that this program meets our academic standards. Students admitted to this program will meet the admission requirements already established by the College of Social Work and The Graduate School. Students in this program are eligible to take course work at the remote site (ADAMH) and on the Columbus campus.

The ADAMH board has committed to providing funds for purchase of books and maintenance of a library for students at its location and anticipates some scholarship support. All courses will be taught in a training room at the ADAMH board. The room is well equipped with smart room technology and other teaching support materials and will create a comfortable learning environment. The program is located approximately two miles from the Columbus campus making access to campus resources relatively easily. Support staff from the College of Social
Work will travel to the site to conduct an orientation to the MSW program and make quarterly visits to the program to visit with students.

Tom Gregoire MSW, PhD
Associate Dean
MSW Program Director
August 2008