

Dear SEC,

As you know, the two Social Work faculty members will be speaking with us this afternoon. Here are some facts of which you should be aware:

When the University talks about costs of the social work program, they are talking about the costs associated with accreditation. In particular, Social Work accreditation **REQUIRES** that the chair and program director receive “at least” 25% release time as a condition of accreditation. Further, the social work curricula configuration requires students to take courses from 8 areas, with a large number of required courses on the books.

And as you know, the university is scrutinizing each and every course release, and ‘efficiency’ in the curriculum. As you also know, we **ALL** have tightened our belts **CONSIDERABLY** — with departments fundamentally redoing their curriculum to make it more efficient. Music is a notable example of this — as they have gone through profound change to reduce costs. Social work will need to participate equally in review/tightening of their curriculum, as we all have.

The Provost has referred to Social Work “not attracting the expected caliber of applicants” in faculty searches. Yet we have all had failed searches, including 2 failed Dean’s searches... So, how would the failed searches in Social Work be different from any where else in the University? There does seem to be one structural difference operating – If you think about the kind of degree we offer in social work, it is **NOT** a social work degree, it is a Bachelor of Arts degree, with major in Sociology. Notably, we do **NOT** offer a BSW and neither do we offer a MSW. And so, I wonder if in some sense, it might be that our BA in Sociology is structurally not going to be inviting to the caliber of faculty applicants we’re seeking. I don’t know... I haven’t seen the applicant pool... Just a thought.

So, when it comes to the program being expensive, I believe we are really talking about the costs of accreditation - required course releases, and the large number of required courses on the books.

When the university talks about “terminating the Social Work major” they are really talking about stepping down from licensure and accreditation, and looking at the possibility of keeping a good range of courses inside the Sociology department, to provide students the experience and learning they would need to continue being of great support in the community and in civic engagement.

Thx,  
Rebecca

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