



Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

91st Session, 2023-2024

A RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND INTEGRITY IN THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Resolution Number: 83

Authored By: Senator Limbacher

Sponsored By: 2023-2024 Student Government Assembly

Whereas, Bachelor's level social work students are required to put in 225 hours at an unpaid internship per the graduation requirements;

Whereas, the School of Social Work introduced a new class curriculum for SW 427: Social Work Methods with Organizations, Communities, and Legislatures in the Spring semester of 2024 with an additional 75 hour time log requirement – increasing our total hours from 225 to 300;

Whereas, the class material for SW 427 revolves around campaigning for a social issue, which is not a feasible task within a single semester, and may be more beneficial to have a head-start on this earlier in social work students' educational path;

Whereas, the School of Social Work did not adequately communicate the time log requirement until February 16, 2024, about a month into the semester, leaving many social work students trying to catch up to meet class requirements;

Whereas, split-year students who are graduating in Spring 2024 with the full-time students, and already completed the SW 427 class did not have the additional requirement of 75 hours added to their workload;

Whereas, the Bachelor of Social Work Program introduces a data analysis class for senior-year social work students, despite not having a math requirement in years;

Whereas, the increase in the workload of the final semester of the Bachelor of Social Work Program at UNR has caused intense stress among constituents;

Whereas, hybrid students are required to submit all assignments on the same day as their 8-hour class, often leaving them with little time for questions or concerns;

Whereas, when students brought their concerns to their teachers, the response from the School of Social Work was simply that we would “get through it”, rather than offering any kind of help or change to the curriculum that was thrown on the students this semester;

Whereas, non-traditional students often do not have the time or privilege of dedicating the extra hours to their classes due to working full-time jobs to support themselves, pay bills, and pay for college;

Whereas, social work students paid and applied to get into the Bachelor of Social Work Program, only for the School of Social Work to change their curriculum and not adequately communicate the changes to students who are applying to the program;

Whereas, the School of Social Work students feel a great amount of disrespect from the University and from the School of Social Work due to their lack of communication and their dismissal of student voices, views, opinions, and circumstances;

Whereas, the structure of the School of Social Work does not promote inclusivity of non-traditional, hybrid, split-year, or neurodiverse students as evident by their demands with hours, due dates, and class requirements which don't take into account the personal circumstances of students;

Whereas, the School of Social Work does not acknowledge the privilege that comes with being a full-time student, and often puts all non-traditional students at a great disadvantage;

Whereas, the School of Social Work students have not had a consistent and reliable advisor to turn to when facing issues within the program;

Whereas, the School of Social Work has demonstrated a pattern of inadequate communication with its students, faculty, and staff, resulting in misunderstandings, delays, and frustration among school of social work students;

Whereas, Integrity as the act of responsibly promoting ethical practices on the part of the organization is a foundational ethical principle for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and in the Code of Ethics we are to follow;¹

Whereas, under the Integrity of the Profession in our NASW Code of Ethics, social workers should “uphold and advance the values, ethics, knowledge, and mission of the profession,” and, “protect, enhance, and improve the integrity of the profession.”;²

Whereas, in accordance with our Code of Ethics, Social Workers are expected to engage in and support, “social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to resources, employment, services, and opportunities,” and should, “advocate for changes in policy and legislation,” to promote social justice;³

Be it resolved that, the School of Social Work must restructure the program to effectively accommodate the needs of non-traditional and diverse students to ensure equitable access, support, and success for all social work students;

Be it further resolved that, the School of Social Work must revise its communication standards in compliance with our Code of Ethics to enhance the integrity of the program and to prevent future miscommunication and confusion. It is imperative that these changes be made to ensure that future cohorts are not led down by the School of Social Work.;

Be it further resolved, that a copy of the legislation be sent to the following:

- School of Social Work Dean, Lillian Wichinsky,
- School of Social Work Associate Dean, Eugenia Weiss,
- BSW Program Director, Jose Parra,
- MSW Program Coordinator, Sara Thompson-Kirby,
- Executive Assistant to the Dean, Cathy Alvin,

¹ NASW Code of Ethics. NASW, National Association of Social Workers. (n.d.). <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English#standards>

² NASW Code of Ethics. NASW, National Association of Social Workers. (n.d.-a). <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Codeof-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English/Social-Workers-Ethical-Responsibilities-to-the-Social-Work-Profession>

³ NASW Code of Ethics. NASW, National Association of Social Workers. (n.d.-a). <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Codeof-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English/Social-Workers-Ethical-Responsibilities-to-the-Broader-Society>

- Coordinator of Academic Success, Brenda Lopez,
- Program Advisor for the MSW Program, Olga Martinez,
- Field Education Coordinator, Jahahi Mazariego,
- BSW Program Coordinator, Mariana Murphy,
- Field Education Program Assistant Coordinator, Yezenia Olivera,
- President of the Associated Students, Boris Carpio Guerra
- President of the University of Nevada, Reno, Brian Sandoval

Adopted in Senate on March 6th, 2024

Attest:

Ally Chavez, Senate Secretary

Fayza Salah, Speaker of the Senate