

## MSWSO Meeting – November 28, 2007

**In attendance:** Kate Golbitz, Ratk Siv, Mark O’Neill, Amanda Eyes, Thomas Lapierre, Al Iannotti and Paige McKinney

**Excused:** Dennis Ghindia, Katie Saraiva and Stephanie Sturdahl

The meeting took place in the School of Social Work atrium. Minutes taken by Thomas Lapierre. The topics discussed are as follows:

### 1. MSW Support Group – Mark

- Still lacks group participation (due to several external factors)
- Still contemplating an ‘alternate time’ and ‘internet discussion’
- Nothing “new to report”
- **Next steps** – Amanda to e-mail Mark regarding Yahoo! group discussion info.

### 2. Faculty Meeting – Ratk

- Shared e-mail from Dean regarding Habitat for Humanity
  - Dean feels as though this a good organization for the MSWSO to participate with
- Discussed several field-placement issues at faculty meeting
  - No new information regarding ‘Field Advisory Committee’
  - Mary M. was not at faculty meeting to report on any progress
  - Consensus from the faculty that was present reported that “nothing has moved forward”
  - Mary seems to have “a lot on her plate”
  - Ratk expressed that feedback from the students is important
  - The faculty has used student’s feedback in the past, but was used “inappropriately”
  - Read anonymous article from the November’s issue of The Advocate regarding field-placement
  - Completion of field hours by the end of each semester
  - Focus groups
  - **Next steps** – Set date for a meeting to focus solely on field-placement issues (MSW students)
  - **Next steps** – Amanda, Ratk, and Kate (perhaps Mark?) to contact Mary to set up a meeting and follow up on specific field issues
  - **Next steps** – Develop a questionnaire to give to MSW students in field-placements to further investigate key issues that are a problem in field
  - **Next steps** – Kate will write something in The Advocate
- Ethics
  - Do students actually know what an ‘ethical dilemma’ is?
  - Where should ethics be placed in the curriculum?
    - Was taken out of HBDO
    - MSWSO believes it should be an underlying theme throughout the curriculum

- Ethics quiz – Mimi
- What do students feel that is missing in regards to ethics?
- Student progress
  - **Next steps** – Find out what is discussed during this part of the faculty meeting? Do all MSW students know?

### 3. Student Lounge – Ratk

- Current computers have been upgraded/faster
- Need to log-on to use computers
- Amanda is still advocating for more computers
- **Next step** – Set a date during winter break for clean-up
- **Next step** – Make sign informing students that they need to log-on to use computers

### 4. The Advocate – Amanda

- Job well done to all who contributed and editorial board
- No December issue
- Next issue – February “Social Justice / Policy”
- Following issues – March, April, and May
- Encouraged MSWSO to write op/ed pieces over break
- Discussed MSWSO ad, mentoring program, and Dr. Reamer’s section

### 5. Website – Ratk

- Ratk and Thomas met to discuss web design/information
- **Next steps** – Continue to update/revise
- **Next steps** – Network outside resources to help with site
- **Next steps** – Publicize the website in February’s Advocate
- **Next steps** – E-mail student body about website, also include information about the ‘Support Group’ via Yahoo! group discussion

### 6. Networking Fair – Kate

- Booked the RIC Student Union ballroom for February 12<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 8 p.m.
- Because the event is in Student Union, need to go through Donovan Catering Services (which is a lot of \$)
- The event to be from 4 – 7 p.m.
- RIC Career services would like to co-sponsor the event and donate money
- E-mailed BSW president for interest and help
- Alumni Association might also be interested in co-sponsoring event
- **Next steps** – Contact Mimi about interest of Alumni Association
- **Next steps** – Draft out letters to organizations a.s.a.p.

### Next MSWSO Meeting TBA

Meeting concerning field-placement issues – December 12, 2007 at 8 p.m.

Location: Julian’s on Broadway, Providence

Mark will attempt at making a reservation for “big table”