

MSWSO MEETING MINUTES  
January 30,2008

Attendance  
Matt Gunnuip  
Dennis Ghindia  
Thomas Lapierre  
Mark O'Neil  
Stephaine Sturdahl  
Marlo Mooney  
Amanda Eyes  
Nora Lane  
Carol Peloquin  
Alexis Derdeian  
Kate Golbitz  
Katie Saraiva  
Ratk Siv  
Al Iannotti

**1) Heat/Light/Water Issues-** Several members raised concerns about the lack of light around the school of social work building, lack of heat on Saturdays and the brown/rust colored water in the bathrooms. Dennis suggested that the concerns be put in writing and he would pass them along to the msw secretary ( Eileen).

**2) Field Placements-**

- a. *Survey at end of field placement-* Carol voiced the concern of one of her classmates. The student was wondering what type of closure is brought to the field placement process at the end of each individual field placement. Kate stated that last year focus groups were facilitated by alumni, where students shared the positive aspects and negative aspects of their field placement experiences. Kate nor Dennis or any of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year MSWSO members were able to determine where the information from the focus groups went. Mark said that he would speak with Mary about it. Kate also said she would inquire about where the information went.
- b. *Field Committee meetings-* Mark voiced his concern about the status of the “field committee” that was to be formed to discuss issues with field amongst students, faculty and staff. He stated that he would follow up with Sue and Mary about the status of the committee.

**3)Faculty Meeting-**

There is a dean’s advisory meeting on Wednesday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm. The mission of the dean’s advisory committee is to advise the dean and chair on important issues that arise within the masters of social work program. Mark will be attending this meeting and he may address the issues with field at this meeting. Amanda would like to attend this meeting also and she is going to speak with Eileen to get more detailed information about it.

#### **4) Lounge-**

It looks wonderful! Everyone who made it look awesome; thanks!

#### **5) Advocate-**

The deadline for this edition of the advocate is Friday February 1<sup>st</sup>. The theme is social justice. Amanda stated that she doesn't have a lot of written pieces, but she does have a lot of announcements. She does have a submission from the BSWSO. She is hoping to get an interview with Kate Brewster, the director of the Poverty Institute. The next issue for this semester will come out in March. Nora suggested that it be tied to the theme of Social Work Month, because it is in March. Amanda suggested that an article to honor Jane Addams, the mother of social work be written.

#### **6) Website-**

- a. *General-* Check it out; it looks great! If Ratk asked you for photo & bio; please send it to her!
- b. *The Advocate-* A suggestion was put forth to post The Advocate on our website to expand our viewer-ship.
- c. *NASW RI-* Al suggested that there be a link from the MSWO website to the NASW RI website. He also suggested that the advocate could get published in the NASW RI newsletters.

#### **7) Networking Fair-**

- a. *Logistics-* The networking fair is Thursday February 21<sup>st</sup> from 4-7 at RIC School of Social Work building. The event will be co-sponsored by the counseling and educational psychology department and the social work alumni association.
- b. *Attendees-* 35 companies/agencies were invited. 8 companies/agencies have confirmed that they will be attending. The following companies/agencies will be in attendance: the air force, ri coalition against domestic violence, family services of ri, day one, kent center, star, ric disability services and discovery house. Most of them have employment and internship opportunities.
- c. *Advertising-* Rose & Heather, in the field office, are making signs. Ratk has made a template for a flyer. Kate will check in with Ratk and also ask the field office to assist in making flyers.
- d. *Committees-* Kate asked for volunteers to greet the agencies and assist them with whatever they need. Mark volunteered to be a greeter. Several members said that they could go to the event early to help set up chairs, food and signs. Al & Katie volunteered to research party platters. Katie will also provide a document called a que to que that will indicate the time to perform various tasks throughout the event and who will be performing them.

#### **8) Earth Day-**

Tom suggested that the MSWSO organize an event to celebrate Earth Day, which is on Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup>. He suggested that the event be held on the Saturday before or after Earth Day. The group brainstormed the following ideas for an event: campus clean up, park clean up, community gardens, habitat for humanity, save the bay, work at the zoo, paint murals and. utilize the greenpeace site for ideas. It was also suggested that we could collaborate with other on campus groups or local high schools. Tom will do more research on these ideas. If you have additional ideas, please email them to Tom.

The next meeting is Wednesday February 13<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm.  
Agenda items for the next meeting are Networking fair, kickball tournament and social work month events.