

Faculty of Social Work Strategic Research Plan Draft - Version 10

QUESTIONS ADDRESSED WHEN PREPARING A FACULTY RESEARCH PLAN

1. Document the process, as created by the Faculty, for the completion of a Faculty Research Plan
2. What are your plans/priorities for a) teaching/research/community service, b) marketing, c) personnel, d) finances, e) infrastructure
3. Of the research clusters outlined in the Strategic Plans, which resonate most closely in your unit
4. What are the measures/metrics by which the various disciplines within your unit measure research excellence
5. Is there a grouping of research excellence within your unit that is distinct from other universities in the province/Canada/world
6. Is this grouping of research excellence inter-disciplinary, and if so name the disciplines
7. With which University of Regina Research Centres/Institutes does your Faculty associate
8. What is the priority resource required to advance your unit's research (e.g. grad students, hiring, partnerships, financial)

1. Document the process, as created by the Faculty, for the completion of a Faculty Research Plan

Potential input/review/approval/consultation entities: Social Policy Research Unit (SPR) Steering Committee. Grad Committee (input), Social Work Academic Staff, (input, review and approval) Community Advisory Boards (consultation), Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers (consultation)

Faculty meetings:

May 17, 2011-Faculty Strategic Planning Meeting

Jan 20, 2012- SPR Working Group submits report to the Acting Dean

Sept 23, 2013- SPR Working Group document shared with SPR Steering Committee

Apr. 28 & 29, 2014 – Faculty Retreat discussions & input

Jun. 25, 2014 – SW Research Planning Meeting

Nov. 26, 2014 – first faculty working meeting with Sylvia Waterer (consultant for Research & Development with the University of Regina, VP Research Office)

Dec. 4, 2014 – faculty consultation comments due in the Dean's Office

Dec. 10, 2014 – second faculty meeting with Sylvia Waterer

Dec 12, 2014 – faculty consultation comments due in the Dean's Office

Dec. 17, 2014 – final draft to be approved at SWAS meeting

Dec. 19, 2014 – final draft to the Associate Dean's meeting

2. What are your plans/priorities for a) teaching/research/community service, b) marketing, c) personnel, d) finances, e) infrastructure

The Mission Statement of the Faculty of Social Work is: *The social work program of education, research and community service is designed to prepare students for critical generalist social work practice with diverse peoples. Informed by the principles of social justice, the social work program encourages students to identify the needs of the disadvantaged, marginalized and oppressed; to develop the commitment, knowledge, values, attitudes, and skills required to confront structural inequalities; to address personal issues; and to empower individual, families, and communities to realize their potential.* As part of solidifying a research plan as a Faculty we are to explore what indigenization and social and environmental justice sustainability means in the context of social work research.

a) Teaching/research/community service

Continue existing interprovincial collaboration (i.e., Prairie Child Welfare Consortium) with Western Canada Faculties of Social Work (Regina, Manitoba, Calgary), Provincial Governments (SK, MB, AB) and Aboriginal organizations (FSIN, MNA) on course delivery, research, and knowledge dissemination.

To deliver province wide social work educational programs

- explore the expansion of the MSW program to sites other than Saskatoon and Regina
- explore offering MSW to non BSW graduate students
- explore the development and delivery of certificate programs
 - Arts based and other expressive approaches or therapies
 - Addictions and mental health
 - Immigrant child welfare
 - PCWC child welfare certificate

Continue collaboration with Aurora College, Yukon College and other northern communities; explore collaborative research opportunities

To develop support systems to facilitate/enhance student program completion

- Particular attention to Indigenous students' needs:
 - ensuring access to writing centre or writing supports
 - promoting the Aboriginal Students' Centre in Regina
 - promoting the Aboriginal Students Centre in Saskatoon; ensure access to Saskatoon and off campus students (skype, videoconference, etc)
 - collaborating with the Faculty of Education to learn from their experiences and outreach in Northern and rural communities
- Develop supports for rural and northern based students
 - explore the use of the Prince Albert campus for Northern student advising
 - in consultation with regional colleges, enhance/develop student support and advising opportunities for students.
 - collaborate with the Faculty of Education because of their experiences and outreach in Northern and rural communities.

- Respond to diverse population needs (including students with disabilities, immigrant, refugee, visible minority, and LGBTQ students);
 - engage in research to determine student support needs

Expand our social work research focus to international and global issues e.g. poverty and human rights

- continue to develop international research partnerships (Chile, Caribbean, Uganda, the Arctic)
- continue international practicums, faculty exchanges, and research activities abroad; Continue the development of international research practicums (e.g. Chile, the Caribbean, Uganda, Nepal, the Arctic)

Continue to explore the recruitment of international students

Continue to develop our presence in the community through creating teaching, research, and practicum options for both students and faculty by continuing:

- the implementation of the community centre in Regina as a pilot project
- the implementation of the Veterinary Social Services project in Saskatoon
- to explore other community outreach projects that may provide practicum options and opportunities for development of research projects

Expand the capacity for the involvement of graduate MSW students in research related activities

- Recruitment and training of research assistants
- Emphasis on diverse research methods
- Engagement of graduate students in research activities by:
 - incorporating graduate students in community centre research activities
 - restoring allocation of research assistant opportunities for graduate students
 - resuming faculty and student research presentation series through SPR (including FSW Student Research Day)
 - promoting full-time registration of graduate students
 - providing graduate student scholarships to support students' ability to take time off from work
 - promoting full-time registration at orientation and information seminars
 - communicating to potential and current students about the demands of graduate work
 - focusing on critical issues in the community that can be addressed through graduate students research, small funding for graduate students research

b) Promotion/Dissemination

- determine how SPR can be better used as a tool for dissemination and promotion of our research activities (e.g. enhance SPR website)
- support of faculty member's work through the Social Policy Research Unit's Occasional, Working and Poverty Paper Series Publications
- create newsletter
- share with others what faculty/ students are accomplishing/working on, engaged in/ promoting, etc.
- hosting SPR biennial social policy conferences, starting with the theme: *Retrenching justice alternatives to social erosion*: outreach to students, people living in poverty, policy makers, students

- work with UR Public Affairs Office to make sure that FSW activities are promoted at the university level
- involve Community Advisory Boards in helping us to set priorities for community engagement that would respect the needs of the community
- to become more “vocal” and visible in the media on relevant health and social policy issues, SW practice issues, etc.
- Faculty presence- website, blogs

c) Resources (personnel)

- increase faculty positions to address accreditation issues, workload issues, and the Faculty of Social Work’s capacity to maintain its provincial reach
- conduct survey to determine where additional faculty and staff could best serve our provincial reach
- allocation of resources to assist faculty with grant writing

d) Resources (financial)

- Allocation of resources to recruit and support international students (including scholarships)
- Continue the allocation of resources to support faculty research activities e.g. through SPR

e) Infrastructure

- Reconfigure SPR
 - Allocation of resources to develop capacity within Faculty to locate resources needed to pursue research projects on critical issues with direct application to SW policy and practice
 - Outline the role of SPR in supporting research at FSW, knowledge mobilization & exchange in the community (public research presentations, community forums, etc)
 - develop formal research support (mentoring) for new/junior or non-tenured faculty to enhance development of their research programs and success in obtaining external funding
 - Fill SPR Coordinator position, following consultation regarding SPR restructuring/reconfiguring
- Ensure adequate access to technological tools for provincial educational and research reach

3. Of the research clusters outlined in the Strategic Plans, which resonate most closely in your unit

Health Equity, and Social Justice & Community Safety resonate most closely with Faculty of Social Work

*The Faculty notes that their areas of research are also aligned with other research clusters

Research clusters are identified as a function of their critical mass (highly-qualified personnel), performance (impact) and distinctiveness:

- Anxiety, Stress & Pain
- The Digital Future
- Water, Environment & Clean Energy
- Health Equity
- Social Justice & Community Safety

4. What are the measures/metrics by which the various disciplines within your unit measure research excellence

-To specify both qualitative and quantitative impacts of our research we need to include “traditional” metrics (e.g. funding, citations) but also other metrics that are reflective of non-science research (e.g. policy changes, presence in social media, etc.). Presence in professional associations such as CASWE, SASW, community-based forums and workshops, reports, newsletters).

-community engaged research and scholarship

-influence on policy decisions made by governing bodies

-publications (increase research based publications) – peer reviewed and other

-conference presentations/keynotes

-hosting Research Events

-success rate for acquiring Tri-council and other research funding

-diverse research activities of faculty members

-multiple research collaborations

-community based research requests

-research Network Involvement

-research and publication review activities

-external Examiner activities

-community and Organizational Review requests

-keynote invitations

- requests to provide consultation services

| 5. Is there a grouping of research excellence within your unit that is distinct from other universities in the province/Canada/world | 6. Is this grouping of research excellence interdisciplinary, and if so name the disciplines | 7. With which University of Regina Research Centres/Institutes does your Faculty associate | 8. What is the priority resource required to advance your unit's research (e.g. grad students, hiring, partnerships, financial) |
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| <p>-research relating to Health Equity, and Social Justice & Community Safety within a vast Prairie context where there is a large, marginalized Indigenous population(s), rapidly growing immigrant and refugee population, and a large aging population</p> <p>-building relationships and aligning with marginalized</p> <p>-build on immigration and migration</p> <p>-addressing issues relating to poverty, income inequality, the rich and wealth concentration</p> <p>- housing and food security</p> <p>-aging, seniors in rural areas</p> <p>-migration</p> <p>-Child Welfare</p> <p>-international research activities</p> <p>-mental health</p> <p>-resiliency</p> <p>-Indigenous research</p> <p>-addiction</p> <p>-rural and northern communities</p> <p>- (dis)Ability issues</p> | <p>-“Health, Identity & Inclusion” reaches across disciplines such as sociology, psychology, economics, education, visual arts, theatre, justice studies, kinesiology, health sciences, nursing, social media studies, health sciences, human and animal medicine, Indigenous studies, political science, etc.</p> | <p>-SPR Unit</p> <p>-U of R Social and Community Research Centres, Institutes and Unit</p> <p>-Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU)</p> <p>-Community Research Unit (CRU)</p> <p>-Indigenous Peoples’ Health Research Centre (IPHRC)</p> | <p>-to allow time for faculty to conduct research reduce teaching load from 5 to 4 courses</p> <p>-there needs to be an institutional response to the drastic reduction of research funding opportunities.</p> <p>-fill SPR Coordinator Position</p> <p>-enhance faculty research capacity and expertise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • faculty support in writing grants/proposals • research infrastructure support • increase faculty positions (three, including one vacancy caused by internally filling the Dean’s position. • Access to the Canadian Research Data Center Network |