

School of Social Welfare Summary of Course Fee Proposal

The School of Social Welfare, the only professional school at KU currently without an established course fee, is proposing a FY 2009 Course Fee of \$25.00 per credit hour. For a junior in the Bachelor's of Social Welfare (BSW) program taking 9 credit hours per semester, the course fee per academic year would be \$450.00. For a student in the Masters of Social Welfare (MSW) program taking 16 credit hours per semester, the course fee per academic year would be \$800.00.

The importance of adjunct lecturers in the preparation of professional Social Welfare degree graduates cannot be overstated. These lecturers are social work practitioners with the terminal MSW professional degree, who have extensive field, and bring a wealth of real-life practice expertise to the classroom. Adjuncts provide a dynamic link between theory and practice, and serve as a practice role models for students. The stipends they receive for teaching a course do not reflect their importance to the Social Welfare professional program. Their current low pay makes it increasingly difficult to recruit and hire some of the best adjuncts from the professional community, and this jeopardizes the School curriculum.

Similarly, it is more difficult to recruit doctoral students to teach as GTAs when they can earn more as research assistants. GTA teaching with mentorship is a crucial element in the overall preparation of doctoral students for future work as professors.

The proposed fee increase would allow raising the classroom adjunct lecturer stipend and the GTA stipend, raise the internship adjunct fee, provide scholarship assistance for those students for whom the would be a major hardship, and would additional funds for projects related to student leadership development and other student services.

The Dean met with groups of students representing all levels of the program (BSW / MSW / PhD) at all three program locations (Lawrence / KCK-Community College / Edwards Campus). The Dean also discussed the proposal in depth with the Student Advisory Council. In all, the Dean held 10 separate meetings to capture the feelings of all segments of the student population about this course fee.

The support voiced by Social Welfare students was very positive, with affirmation of the crucial role of adjunct lecturers and the importance of quality instruction. The course fee will make it possible for the program to ensure the quality of classroom instruction and internship teaching across the curriculum by strengthening the School's ability to recruit the most experienced professionals and retain the most successful lecturers.