

## **Student's Right to Organize**

Social Work students have the right to organize in their own interests in matters related to academic and student affairs. This also applies to the Social Work Program. Social Work students are encouraged to maintain and participate in S.S.W.O. (Student Social Work Organization), a social work student organization which elects two students to serve on the Social Work Program Committee, advocates with the college structure for the needs of social work students, invites distinguished social work professionals to campus for presentations, and organizes social functions.

A student organization for Social Work majors originated in the fall of 1990. It was initiated in the Community Organization course as a class project, to organize Social Work students on their own behalf. The student organization has been active since.

The faculty representative to the organization is Melissa Villarreal. During the 1993-94 school year, the organization established by-laws, which are on record with the college (see Appendix C). The Student Social Work Organization is now a recognized academic student organization by Hope College. It is the continued hope and desire of the social work faculty to encourage student participation in this organization. Currently, the student organization sponsors meetings at which faculty and practitioners present material on various topics of general interest, plan and implement social activities, community service projects, and appoint members for the Social Work Program Committee.

The organization has now been in existence for ten academic years and is continuing to develop in terms of its recognition and its involvement in the life of the students in the major. The effectiveness of the student Social Work Organization is confirmed by its continued existence and increasing organizational activity. Through a survey administered in 1992, over 90% of the students in the program supported the existence of the organization and pledged participation in it. Though attendance fluctuates by activity, students continue to initiate activities. The organization has hosted several meetings of the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers on Hope's campus. The student organization is participating in the Student Organization Fair during Freshman Orientation. Each year the Student Organization participates in community service activities for local human service agencies, including hat and mitten drives, book drives, food collections, fund-raisers, CASA sleep-over for at-risk children, and others. In 1999-2000 the Student Organization (renamed SWORG!) raised money for foster children in Romania.

## **STUDENT SOCIAL WORK ORGANIZATION**

### **BY LAWS**

#### **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of the organization shall be the  
Student Social Work Organization.

#### **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

The purpose of this organization is to provide student interaction, to socialize students to the profession of social work, to promote and participate in community service and to provide an opportunity for the students to voice their opinion in policy decisions as it relates to the social program.

#### **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the organization is open to SWK Majors, SWK Faculty and prospective Social Work majors.

#### **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

Officers should be elected to the following positions:  
co-chairpersons

The officers shall be Bachelor of Social Work students who meet all Social Work Program eligibility requirements. Their positions shall be for one year.

The duties for the Co-chairpersons include:

1. Formulating an agenda for Student Social Work Organization meetings.
2. Conducting student Social Work Organization meetings.
3. Overseeing (w/faculty advisor) the election of officers.
4. Handling the logistics of paperwork and memos.
5. Initiating guest lectures and other activities.
6. Recording and distributing minutes.
7. Maintaining minutes and files.
8. Election of 2 senior representatives to the Social Work Program Committee.

#### **ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES**

As need arises, ad hoc committees will be formed.

#### **ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS**

1. Informational Meeting:

This meeting will be open to all B.S.W. students and prospective students interested in being part of the Student Social Work Organization and will consist of a brief summary of the organization, its members, and the purpose of the organization. Those interested will sign-up and be contacted for further meetings.

2. Student Social Work Organization:

These meetings will address agenda items requiring discussion, action and ad hoc committee formation. All Student Social Work Organization meetings are open for suggestions and feedback from fellow B.S.W. students.

#### **ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any member of the organization. The proposed amendment shall be raised at least one meeting prior to being voted on. A 2/3rds vote of members present shall be required to amend.