

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan: Overview

Beginning in September 2015, the University of Michigan School of Social Work (SSW) engaged in a seven month-long planning activity to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the School in the context of its vision, mission, and goals. We summarize here the results of this planning process that resulted in our <u>5-year plan</u>. Our plan is grounded in the SSW's vision, mission, and goals and the social work profession's goals and ethics.

Social work professional values and the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) serve as guides to the profession and the School of Social Work on working for justice and change by reducing the inequities of poverty, exclusion, exploitation, violence, oppression, powerlessness, and the dominance of particular cultural norms and values. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) outlines competencies and practice behaviors for masters-level curricula that are directly related to working for justice and engaging with diverse populations. In this strategic plan, we identify areas we want to consolidate and maintain, and key priorities for intensive work to move to new phases. In undertaking this plan, we define justice broadly, including social, economic, cultural, environmental, restorative, and other foci.

The School of Social Work (SSW) vision is:

A Better Society through Individual and Social Change

The SSW mission statement is:

Advancing the social work profession's vision and values, the University of Michigan School of Social Work seeks to develop a more equitable, caring, and socially just society. Such a society meets basic human needs, eliminates social and economic inequities, and empowers individuals, their communities, and institutions to reach their aspirations and potential. Drawing on an interdisciplinary faculty within a public university seated in a region of enormous need and promise, the School is dedicated to education, research, and service that fosters progressive change at local, national, and global levels.

SSW's goals are:

The School will provide an excellent education to students and practitioners in the knowledge and skills needed for contemporary and evolving social work practice.

The School will create and disseminate knowledge about individual, community, and organizational concerns; social issues; social policy; and practice interventions, within a tradition of multi-disciplinary and multi-professional research.

The School will engage in service to the community, the profession, and society through collaboration and leadership.

Our vision, mission, and goals are consistent with the social work profession's purpose, as defined by CSWE, as well as the NASW Code of Ethics.

The Purpose of Social Work Practice and Education according to CSWE:

The purpose of the social work profession is to promote human and community well- being. Guided by a person-in-environment framework, a global perspective, respect for human diversity, and knowledge based on scientific inquiry, the purpose of social work is actualized through its quest for social and economic justice, the prevention of conditions that limit human rights, the elimination of poverty, and the enhancement of the quality of life for all persons, locally and globally.

The NASW Code of Ethics states that:

The primary mission of social work is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty... Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living... Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients... Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice.

In response to these vision, mission, goals, and ethics statements, the SSW works with communities, both internally and externally to further justice and remove barriers limiting human potential and healthy development. CSWE, the social work accrediting agency, defines field- based education as the "signature pedagogy" for social work, and the SSW partners with 400+ organizations external to the SSW, and 600+ field-based instructors who supervise field education for MSW students. Also, the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) has defined multiple "grand challenges" for social work, all of which require active engagement in working for societal change. Thus, any plan focused on DEI must not only focus within the SSW, but also must embrace community-based agendas and multiple external constituencies and issues.

We understand Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a process to:

- Evolve over time, and is developed and sustained by the efforts of administrators, staff, faculty, students, and many collaborators and constituencies external to the SSW.
- Require a shared working definition and understanding of DEI as the basis for collaboration and community support (students, faculty, staff, field instructors, and community members within and outside the SSW) to work together towards social justice and change.
- Employ a bottom-up, community-engaged, approach to developing DEI in our School and with the various communities external to the SSW.

- Emphasize the creation of a just, challenging, and supportive environment for education for people with multiple positionalities in society. Race and ethnicity are important positionalities, but we also include age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, physical appearance, height, weight, veteran status, political ideology, national origin, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation and/or identity, socioeconomic status, tribal sovereign status, and others important in particular contexts and environments.
- Incorporate the examination of causes and consequences of inequities and mechanisms that sustain inequity, including exclusion, and deep knowledge of oneself as a practitioner, including one's own worldviews, implicit and explicit biases, knowledge, skills, and interaction styles.

Our plan is based on the need for the physical, psychological, social, moral, fiscal, and academic health of *all* involved, regardless of what our activities might be (e.g., teaching, learning, research, work to change society).

Our beginning assumptions include the following:

- DEI is an educational imperative. Multiple kinds of diversity increase learning and are required to conduct effective social work practice with social justice goals. The UM produced substantial research about the educational benefits of diversity on a great many dimensions. This diversity must exist among students, faculty, administrators, staff, and collaborators.
- DEI is required for social work practice and for citizenship in an increasingly diverse and unjust world.
- DEI is also an ethical issue, since historically the sociopolitical structure of the SSW and University may have had the effect of excluding or making it difficult for certain groups to have access to knowledge and learning.
- DEI is a fiscal issue. Empirical evidence suggests that DEI may attract more talent into the University and thus help increase the talent base of the University, attract different types of research and research funding, and improve the quality of teaching with diverse didactic techniques.

Principles underlying our plan include the following:

- DEI issues affect, and need to improve across all constituencies: administrators, staff, faculty, and students.
- DEI will only improve when structural barriers, unearned privilege, racism, homophobia, xenophobia, and other forms of fear and oppression are addressed in their multiple manifestations.
- DEI needs to be studied and addressed from "insider" and "outsider" perspectives.

- DEI needs to integrate diverse ways of thinking in order to incorporate different definitions of talent, progress, and excellence. Development: Who defines "talent" and are different definitions allowed and valued once DEI is achieved.
- DEI efforts need to include all constituencies of the University (administrators, staff, faculty, and students) in order to develop a workplace and educational climate that feels and is demonstrably equitable and inclusive of *all*. It also requires strong relationships and commitments to communities outside the UM: field instructors, community members, and those affected by injustice.

Implementation Highlights and Planning Process Used

Implementation Process:

The SSW DEI plan has been integral to the 5-year vision and goals that the faculty has set for the School. The <u>SSW 2017 - 2021 Strategic Plan</u> includes an explicit DEI goal, "Build and sustain a school community that is based on respect for all and dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion." It also integrates DEI into strategic goals of the School, including the following: "Improve access to a U-M affordable education," "Advance diversity, equity and inclusion through knowledge development that emphasizes social justice through public, engaged scholarship and research and dissemination," and "Engage local, regional, state, national and global communities, organizations, and the University to advance social justice and create progressive change."

Our plan's implementation structure and process continue to be built upon existing committees and offices in our school of social work in collaboration with our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office. This strategy is in line with the concept of our DEI office being tasked with catalyzing and coordinating our efforts. It also more easily integrates the DEI work into the ongoing work of our School.

Faculty director Lorraine Gutiérrez and Assistant Director, Lauren Davis, staff the Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Three MSW level student employees, one MSW student intern, and a GSSA funded by Rackham provide part-time support. Director Gutiérrez was charged with the overall leadership of the school's efforts and office operations. This also included communicating directly with the dean and associate deans, representing the office to external constituents such as the dean's advisory group and UM administrators, and meetings with faculty members. Ms. Davis's efforts focused on internal office operations, supervising student employees and interns, developing and facilitating projects with other offices within the school of social work, attending and participating in university wide DEI leads activities, and other related work. The student employees assisted with data gathering and analysis, report writing, event planning and implementation, and communication with our student community. Our model for staffing and operations is dynamic and could change as needs change in the future.

The DEI office director and assistant director participate in SSW committees in order to implement activities. In addition, the director meets with each of the Associate Deans

(Research, Faculty Affairs, and Academic Programs) and the Director of Administration, Finance and Operations to discuss objectives and action items that related to each of their portfolios. We work on projects and activities related to their work (e.g. faculty hiring, faculty development, staff hiring, student services, and scholarship) and the plans objectives and action items. Ms. Davis also attends meetings of the Academic Programs management group, which included the directors of all of the academic programs (e.g. Global Affairs, Field Education, Student Services, PhD program, MSW program) in the School of Social Work. The faculty director is also a member of the Dean's Senior Management team that includes all deans and directors in the School of Social Work.

A significant aspect of our implementation activities requires working with the standing committees in the School of Social Work. The faculty director or assistant director met with committees charged with the work of the school such as the curriculum committee and faculty search committee. Prof Gutiérrez chaired the PRAXIS (Promoting Action for Intersectional Social Justice) committee and Ms. Davis is an ex officio member. The PRAXIS committee "seeks to act for justice by articulating definitions of social justice in micro, mezzo and macro contexts, to develop/recommend goals for the SSW that are consistent with these definitions and to plan actions to move towards these goals." Therefore, the work of this committee is in line with the DEI strategic plan. Work with the PRAXIS committee included a focus on faculty hiring, issues related to school culture and climate, and a review of the name and charge of the committee is composed of current students, faculty in different ranks, and staff and serves, in part, as an advisory group to our DEI implementation efforts.

Many internal and external factors contributed to our progress and success of implementing our DE&I plan. Some internal factors included our very comprehensive strategic plan for DEI, faculty and staff support, administrative commitment, and ongoing interest from our student body. External factors include institutional commitment, accreditation standards from the Council on Social Work Education that require that schools of social work develop DEI competencies in their students, and funding support from Rackham for a DEI GSSA.

The search and executive committees were proactive in seeking and ultimately attaining diverse applicant pools for new faculty hiring. Of our new four full time faculty hires for fall 2019 include four women, with two from underrepresented groups. The school was relatively stable with regard to proportion of students of color. This is an area that we will focus on in the coming year by seeking to attract broadly diverse staff and creating stronger relationships with minority serving institutions where we can reach out to a more diverse applicant pool.

The funding support from the Provost's office has provided some resources for the DEI office. Our dean has provided significant funding from the SSW budget for many of our activities, including DEI related activities in other social work offices. The faculty director receives a significant course reduction and summer support in order to carry out work outside of the academic year. Financial support has also provided us with funds to hire an excellent Assistant Director with significant expertise and experience in program development and implementation, staff supervision, group facilitation, and student engagement. This past year we were awarded funding from Rackham Graduate School to hire a GSSA for the DEI office.

The mission of our school of social work, which reflects the field's values and ethics, has also contributed to our progress. It clearly states the importance of equity, progressive change, and empowerment. Our accreditation requirements require education regarding human diversity, social justice, and strategies to advance human rights and equity. This provides a context in which diversity, equity and inclusion are recognized as central to our teaching, scholarship, and service. Our plan provided a platform for faculty, students, and staff to identify how these professional commitments can be integrated into the work we are doing and learning to do.

The overall institutional leadership from President Schlissel and Provost Sellers as well as the UM DEI team provided significant support for the work and a platform for our efforts

<u>Implementation challenges</u>: Our unit made significant progress on our year three plan while facing some significant challenges from within our school, our university context, and the society at large. These conditions included resource allocation, organizational cultures, decentralized structures, and external conditions.

Twelve new faculty joined our faculty this past year all with strong interests and expertise in DEI issues who will contribute to our growth in teaching, research, and service. However, all required an orientation to our school, our DEI strategic plan, and how they can participate and connect to it.

The University of Michigan is a highly decentralized institution and the School of Social Work shares some of this decentralized culture. This type of structure and culture can feed innovation and initiative, but it can also contribute to duplication of effort and lack of coordination. Implementing a strategic plan, and leading an office that is focused on coordination and cooperative activity requires a shift in culture and strong messaging regarding expectations. The message from the DEI office has been that all have contributions to make, we all have things to learn, and that success requires us all to work on our plan. Although the school's leadership team has reinforced this message, this change in organizational culture has made it difficult to initiate or complete some of the action items because they called for changes in different office's programs and practices.

This past academic year has included many external conditions with significant DEI implications. These situations have required our team and school to address them with students, faculty and staff. Our students, staff, and faculty have been affected in different ways by messages from our nation's new leaders regarding immigration, religious freedom, gender equality, LGBT rights, race and racism, and social justice. These issues have impacted communications and interactions inside and outside of classes within and between these different groups.

When conflicts have simmered or emerged our school community has created supports and spaces for reflection to address the feelings and concerns that have been raised. In addition, as

a school of social work, we have also worked to support the integration of these issues into our courses and programs so we can equip our graduates to do work consonant with social work values and ethics. Determining how to respond to emerging issues in responsible ways affected our ability to proceed with some of our plans but also led to some innovative and important new directions.

Year Three Data Collection and Evaluation

Our plan touches on every aspect of our school; therefore, our data collection was dependent on gathering information from many different offices within our school. The DEI office has collected data from our meetings with students, faculty, staff and administrators as part of our work. We have collected student enrollment data, data on staff and faculty hiring processes, committee reports, evaluations of staff and faculty workshops, student town hall data, and student financial aid data in evaluating progress on action items.

Data and Analysis: Key Findings

During this past year we were able to make excellent progress on all of our objectives and many of our action items. The overall leadership in our school facilitated this progress.

Our activities and data collection processes reinforced many of the findings of our initial strategic planning process. However, our implementation activities and ongoing data collection have revealed many of the processes behind the issues that were previously identified. In some cases, such as staff hiring, we learned that previous practices had been inadvertently dropped and they were easily adopted. An example of this is posting all of our job openings on the school's website. In other instances, we learned that resources existed, such as the UM Child Care Subsidy, but that students were unaware of them or unsure of how to access them. In these cases, we have focused on creating greater transparency and information regarding what is available.

In this third year of implementation we have been most successful in completing action steps that related to personnel policies and procedures such as circulating our faculty openings more broadly or providing more professional development opportunities to faculty and staff. We have made excellent progress on action steps for which there was a clear office or position that was responsible, for example developing new pathways to the MSW program, increasing diversity among our part- and full-time faculty, or changing course evaluation questions. We have been more challenged with action items that will require changes in budget or structures and are under longer-term development. Examples of these are analyzing our current budget and policies for MSW student financial aid to move towards a more needs-based approach and increasing staff and faculty development opportunities. These more challenging structural changes will require ongoing attention and support in the coming year.

Pathways to conflict resolution

The School of Social Work has in place internal and external mechanisms for conflict resolution affecting faculty, staff, and students. For faculty the major policy is outlined in our faculty handbook which reflects policies and practices in the Section 10.H. The Dean or one of the Associate Deans attempt to resolve faculty conflicts in an equitable manner before they reach the grievance process.

A grievance process for Post-doctoral research fellows is also outlined in our faculty handbook. It outlines an internal process which involves the Associate Dean for Research or Dean in handling grievances. If a grievance cannot be handled satisfactorily within the school it can be reported to the Dean of Rackham or the UM Ombudsman.

Our MSW and Doctoral program student guides outline mechanisms for student conflicts and grievances. Students are also informed about their rights regarding appeal and other resources. In each handbook, UM SSW staff directs students to the U-M Office of Student Conflict Resolution (OSCR), which administers the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities and offers conflict resolution services for cases where the SSW process is not sufficient. Our Social Work Student Union, which represents MSW students, also has an Ombudsperson who can address conflicts within that program.

UM SPG Policy 201.08 covers SSW Staff. The School of Social Work has no additional policy and staff are informed of their options during orientation.

At all levels, most of the conflicts are resolved before a formal case is brought. This is due to the professionalism of our Dean's office, our SSW Director of Administration, Finance and Operations who handles staff issues, the Director of the Doctoral Program and the Office of Student Services staff. Students are also empowered to resolve their own conflicts. Over the past ten years we have had very few grievance hearings. It is important to monitor both the number of conflicts brought forward and those that transition into a formal grievance process as our student body becomes increasingly diverse and the number of cultural approaches to conflict resolution increases.

Strategic Objectives, Measures of Success and Action Plans¹

A. Recruitment, Retention and Development

<u>Five-Year Strategic Objective 1:</u> Increase the diversity of students from underrepresented groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and diverse sexual identities, and gender expressions.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 1)

1. Increased numbers of students from underrepresented groups.

2. Demonstrated effort to increase diversity in every aspect of student recruitment.

 $^{^{1}\,\}text{All}$ changes from the Year 3 plan are in **bold.**

FY20 Actions

- 1. Strategically identify diverse locations and approaches for recruitment.
- 2. Implement and evaluate the 4+1 program for MSW admissions with UM-Dearborn and the UM Ann Arbor Sociology department.
- 3. Office of Student Services staff to increase its presence in Detroit.
- 4. Continue **outreach to students at UM** Dearborn and **UM** Flint.
- 5. Track admissions, enrollment, and retention of students with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ identities

Five-Year Strategic Objective 2: Ensure consistent support for successful learning experiences.

Measures of Success (for Objective 2):

1. Decrease the number of students with large debts.

2. Increased positive learning experience measured through course evaluations and new evaluation formats the SSW will begin implementing.

FY20 Actions

- 1. Increase the overall amount of financial assistance.
- 2. Increase the number of students who receive financial assistance.
- 3. Increase the number of programs available to support all students academically and psychologically.
- 4. **Identify additional sources of student support** such as increasing emergency funding, support for caregivers such as child care, student networks for finding roommates, housing, ride-sharing, and other resource sharing.

Five-Year Strategic Objective 3: Increase the diversity of staff from underrepresented groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and diverse sexual identities, and gender expressions.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 3)

- 1. Increased numbers of staff from underrepresented groups.
- 2. Demonstrated effort to increase diversity in every aspect of staff recruitment.

- 1. Increased transparency in hiring & recruitment by, for example, posting all new staff positions on a page on the School of Social Work website.
- 2. Human Resource Administrators will provide quarterly reports to the School's leadership on:
 - a. Number and location of positions posted
 - b. Number of internal and external applicants
 - c. Number of internal and external interviews

- d. Number of hires or promotions
- e. Number of internal applicants that did not receive the position but instead received career counseling
- 3. Explore methods for identifying and tracking recruitment and hiring of staff with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ identities.
- 4. **Review** how we have promoted full and fair consideration of applicants from underrepresented groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and LGBT identities.

Five-Year Strategic Objective 4: Ensure consistent support for supportive career development and professionally rewarding work experiences.

Measures of Success (for Objective 4):

- 1. Annual reports by supervisors.
- 2. Increased satisfaction as measured by School climate survey or other instruments.

FY20 Actions:

- 1. Identify additional ways of communication to inform all staff of career development opportunities.
- 2. Offer diversity, equity and inclusion skill development programs specifically for staff.
- 3. Highlight the schedule of staff professional development opportunities each year and address any barriers to participation.
- 4. Reward diversity, equity and inclusion leadership among staff.

Five-Year Strategic Objective 5: Increase the diversity of faculty from underrepresented groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and diverse sexual identities, and gender expressions (LGBTQIA+ - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and others not included in the acronym).

Measures of Success: (for Objective 5)

- 1. Increased numbers of faculty from underrepresented groups.
- 2. Demonstrated effort to increase diversity in every aspect of faculty recruitment.

- The Faculty Search and Executive Committees will engage in specific efforts to increase diversity to be included in every faculty search or new appointment. These specific efforts will be distributed in writing to every faculty member, but specifically to members of the Search Committee.
- 2. Require faculty search **committees** to include documentation of efforts to reach diverse candidates as part of the search process.

- 3. Designate a member of the search committee as a diversity champion on each faculty search committee who is empowered to and responsible for encouraging outreach and awareness of diversity, equity and inclusion issues in the search process.
- 4. Identify professional associations, networks, and individuals who may include or reach underrepresented scholars and assure that they receive any new faculty posting.
- 5. All members of the search committee **will** participate in ADVANCE training for faculty search committee members.
- 6. Rate all job applicants and candidates on their demonstrated commitment to DEI as reflected in their research, teaching, or service.

Five-Year Strategic Objective 6: Ensure consistent support for career development of all junior faculty.

Measures of Success (for Objective 6):

- 1. Successful promotion of junior faculty to associate level.
- 2. Increased satisfaction levels as reported in climate survey or another instrument.

FY20 Actions:

- 1. Strengthen mentoring program(s) presently in existence for all junior faculty.
- 2. Continue to develop faculty understanding of tenure and promotion system.

3. Provide support for faculty promotion and tenure including participation in the Faculty Success Program (FSP) through the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD).

4, Ensure that faculty have a clear understanding of the promotion and tenure process and requirements.

Five-Year Strategic Objective 7: Increase the diversity of LEO faculty from underrepresented groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and diverse sexual identities, and gender expressions (LGBTQIA+ - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and others not included in the acronym).

Measures of Success: (for Objective 7)

- 1. Increased numbers of LEO faculty from underrepresented groups
- 2. Demonstrated effort to increase diversity in every aspect of LEO faculty recruitment

- 1. The Associate Dean for Educational Programs will identify professional networks to alert more diverse groups to job opportunities and diversify applicant pools.
- 2. Proactively create a diverse pool of potential LEO faculty from which new LEO appointments can be made by linking to professional networks that include diverse social workers

Five-Year Strategic Objective 8: Improve upon hiring and promotion practices to attract, retain, reward, and inspire LEO and Governing faculty to continually hone their ability to facilitate transformational learning via inclusive teaching methods.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 8):

1. **Submit an** annual report to **the** Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the School's Executive Committee that provides information on hiring practices such as outreach, screening and interview processes, and means for getting input on hiring from students, faculty and staff.

FY20 Actions:

- 1. During hiring searches prioritize facilitation and inclusive teaching skills that engage and contribute to conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion.
- 2. Develop, deliver, and measure outcomes of professional development on effectively facilitating transformative conversations.
- 3. Add facilitating transformative conversations to faculty handbook teaching criteria for annual, 3rd year, promotions and tenure reviews for LEO, Clinical, and Tenure Track and Tenured Faculty.
- 4. **Provide schedule of Professional and Faculty Development topics** (with opportunity for suggestions to be added on rolling basis).
- 5. Provide ongoing training for faculty above and beyond on boarding orientation to effectively model engaging and transformative conversations that utilize inclusive teaching methods.
- 6. Provide incentives for undertaking training that matters to faculty.
- 7. Provide clear expectations for attention and contribution to diversity, **equity** and inclusion goals, as evidenced by research/scholarship, teaching, and service activities, in promotion and tenure reviews and in annual reviews.
- 8. Reward diversity, equity and inclusion leadership among students, staff and faculty.
- 9. Support faculty scholarship on diversity, equity and inclusion related topics through seed funding.

Five-Year Strategic Objective 9 Provide more consistent and supportive faculty advising.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 9)

1. Increased number of students who in exit and climate surveys indicate they have met with their advisors at least once each semester.

2. Increased number of students who in exit and climate surveys indicate they indicate they found their advisors to care about them and to be helpful.

- 1. Increased number of faculty who meet with their advisees at least 1x a semester
- 2. Provide faculty training to strengthen student advisement.

B. Education and Scholarship

Five-Year Strategic Objective 10 : Increase DEI focus of offices dealing with outside communities **such as the** Program Evaluation Group, Office of Global Activities, Continuing Education Program, Community Action and Social Change minor, **Office of Field Education**.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 10)

- 1. Each program will develop a statement of their contribution to DEI in the School of Social Work
- 2. Contributions to DEI will be incorporated into these programs planning and evaluation.

FY20 Actions

- 1. Assess the degree to which these offices' programs contribute to the DEI plan objectives.
- 2. Consult with office directors and staff to strengthen DEI focused activities.
- 3. Integrate DEI goals into each offices' annual plan.

Five-Year Strategic Objective 11: Students will gain greater skill and ability to participate, lead and respond in transformational conversations.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 11)

1. Increased number of students who in course evaluations and other evaluative venues (i.e., focus groups, **surveys**) indicate they and their instructors were engaged in transformational conversations and that students, gained skills and insights.

- 1. Continue to ensure that SEED (part of our student orientation) activities help students and faculty strengthen their skills at holding transformational conversations.
- 2. Continue to require all incoming MSW students to take the diversity and social justice course (SW 504) with **limited exceptions.**
- 3. Examine the 504 Focus Group Report to create refinements to the course.
- 4. Ensure the MSW advanced curriculum effectively integrates Privilege, Oppression, Diversity and Social Justice (PODS).
- 5. Assess current syllabi for PODS content; step up advising to encourage PODS intensive courses.
- 6. Evaluate PODS-specific items on student course evaluations.
- 7. Meet with the School of Education Center for Educational Design, Evaluation and Research to develop a comprehensive evaluation plan to assess the integration of PODS content and experiences in courses that includes multiple measurement methods.
- 8. Assess all proposed courses for contributions to PODS education.

Five-Year Strategic Objective 12: Faculty will acquire greater skill and ability to participate, lead and respond to facilitate transformational learning via inclusive teaching methods.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 12)

1. Increased number of students who in course evaluations and other evaluative venues (i.e., focus groups) indicate they and their instructors were engaged in transformational conversations and that they gained skills on the subject.

FY20 Actions:

1. Maintain or increase the number of faculty development activities devoted to acquiring inclusive teaching for transformational learning.

 Provide rewards that are part of the annual review process that are tangible and of value to Faculty, i.e.: "Excellence in Facilitating Transformative Conversations Award
 Offer Continuing Education units for faculty development activities when possible.

Five-Year Strategic Objective 13: Students will learn more about current events, **understand them** in a meaningful way, and then learn how to apply relevant social work skills to actions related to the event.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 13)

1. More students will indicate they participated in events and were engaged in advocacy activities.

FY20 Actions:

1. The School and faculty will create opportunities for students to engage in advocacyrelated work.

Five-Year Strategic Objective 14: Provide more holistic student support.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 14)

1. Exit and climate surveys will show that more students indicate they have received a variety of support.

- 1. Ensure that students are aware of different sources for emergency funding.
- 2. Ensure that students are aware of support for student caregivers and student parents.
- 3. Create a resource similar to the roommate finder where students can collaborate with other students interested in ride sharing, etc.

4. Develop more innovative ways of teaching via digital learning or other resources

Five-Year Strategic Objective 15: Staff will have expanded opportunities to participate and engage in career development activities in general and particularly in discussions about Privilege, Oppression, Diversity, and Social Justice (PODS) to understand the application and implications of PODS within the school and the curriculum.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 15)

- 1. Increased number of staff that in climate surveys indicate they have a greater understanding of PODS in the curriculum and the school's operation.
- 2. Increased number of staff in climate surveys indicate they feel they are more integrated in school activities.

FY20 Actions:

1. **Staff will have access to** regular, accessible, structured opportunities to engage around current events.

There will be clarity in the types of events that staff are invited to and if they have permission to attend if the events, or discussion groups, that happen during the workday.
 Plan and implement an annual all-staff retreat.

Five-Year Strategic Objective 16: Create accountability mechanisms that support inclusive participation.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 16)

- 1. Increased availability of data to be used in monitoring.
- 2. Sophisticated assessment of school climate.
- 3. Ongoing assessment of curriculum followed by evidence-based innovation.

- 1. Increase awareness of the Bias Response Team (BRT), the UM Ombudsman, and the Office of Student Conflict Resolution at the UM to address expressions of bias.
- 2. Expand efforts to improve awareness of the Bias Response Team (BRT), the UM Ombudsman, and the Office of Student Conflict Resolution at U-M to address expressions of bias.
- 3. Develop mechanisms to link to OSCR with respect to restorative justice practice approaches to bias incidents in our school.
- **4.** Increase the number of formalized procedures for students to address concerns with an emphasis on the identification of solutions.
- 5. Provide more opportunities for students to share their voices and concerns with faculty.

Strategic Objective 17: Educate our community on sexual harassment and misconduct prevention in an effort to promote a safe and supportive environment for all members to work, learn, and thrive.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 17)

1. Faculty, Students, and staff will complete the mandatory Sexual Harassment and Misconduct mandatory training modules.

FY20 Action:

1. Support unit-level participation in mandatory training.

D. Service

Five-Year Strategic Objective 18: Faculty will engage in more purposeful and organized engagement related to populations that are currently, and have historically, been shut off from opportunities. SSW will make public an informed social work discourse related to current events and social justice matters seemed important and part of our responsibility as a school of social work.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 18)

1. More faculty will participate and lead public events related to issues of social justice affecting society.

FY20 Actions:

 Faculty will more actively create dedicated, regular, accessible (via Skype, streaming etc.) space to gather and discuss current events as they relate to diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice.

Five-Year Strategic Objective 19: Increase cultural humility regarding community knowledge and involvement and increase faculty involvement in community activities/partnerships and with social work-related organizations.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 19)

- 1. Increase in the number and quality of partnerships with community organizations.
- 2. Increase in learning activities concerning community involvement **and** communication.

- 1. Develop a thorough inventory of all the community-based partnerships with SSW involvement to identify partnerships that could be strengthened and to avoid duplication or repetition.
- 2. Invite community members to participate in events and discussions.
- 3. Develop Incentives for more faculty to be involved in community partnerships.
- 4. Hold more classes in agency contexts.
- 5. Increase the number of assignments, including independent studies that involve connecting with communities.
- 6. Increase the number of community members who are guest speakers and provide compensation

<u>Five-Year Strategic Objective 20: Identify ways by which more financial integration can occur</u> with external community. There is a need to identify funding streams and aim towards <u>sustainability</u>.

Measures of Success: (for Objective 20)

1. Seek sustainable funding to support partnerships with communities.

FY20 Actions:

1. Pursue funding to support field instructors, community members, for community based-participatory research.

- 2. Create connections with local K-12 institutions
- 3. Invite community members to participate in conferences.
- 4. Develop information resources for community organizations.
- 5. Facilitate community access to **appropriate** UM resources.

V. Goal-related Metrics – University and school/college/unit measures tracked over time

We will continue to gather data for our metrics from the different offices within the school of social work. These data for year four will include data from the following sources:

Associate Dean for Academic Programs

- 1. Data on MSW and PhD student enrollment
- 2. Report from OSS regarding student recruitment activities
- 3. Report on student debt from ADEP
- 4. Report from ADEP on LEO recruitment strategies
- 5. Course Evaluations
- 6. Student surveys (positive experiences in classes, transformational, conversations, support services, advising, DEI skills, advocacy activities)
- 7. Data on PODS integration

8. Annual program reports from OGA, CE, CASC, MSW Program, PhD Program <u>Human Resources office</u>

1. Data from HR on staff and LEO hires

- 2. Report from HR on staff recruitment practices,
- 3. HR report on staff DEI competence

The University of Michigan DEI Climate Survey

- 1. Staff input on school climate re: DEI
- 2. Faculty climate data
- 3. Student climate data
- Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
 - 1. Report on faculty composition
 - 2. Report on faculty recruitment and hiring
 - 3. Report on faculty promotion and tenure

Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- 1. Additional management reports
- 2. Student focus group/ DEI drop ins
- 3. Data on PODS integration
- 4. List of events led by faculty on social justice issues
- 5. List of community partnerships
- 6. List of community partnerships in courses

Associate Dean for Research

- 1. Report on Funding for community partnerships
- 2. Report from the Curtis Research Center
- 3. Report from the Program Evaluation Group

VI. Action Planning Table with Details and Accountabilities

A. Recruitment, Retention and Development

Key constituency	Strategic objective	Measures of Success	Detailed Actions Planned	Group/ persons accountable	Resources
Students	Five-Year Strategic Objective 1: Increase the diversity of students from underrepresented groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and diverse sexual identities, and gender expressions.	 Increased numbers of students from underrepresented groups. Demonstrated effort to increase diversity in every aspect of student recruitment. 	 Strategically identify diverse locations and approaches for recruitment. Implement and evaluate the 4+1 program for MSW admissions with UM- Dearborn and the UM Ann Arbor Sociology department. Office of Student Services staff to increase its presence in Detroit. Continue outreach to students at UM Dearborn and UM Flint. Track admissions, enrollment, and retention of students with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ identities 	Associate Dean for Academic Programs	Increased funding for travel in region and to HBCU and HSI recruitment events.

Ob En: sup	bjective 2:	 Decrease the number of students with large debts. Increased positive learning experience measured through course evaluations and new evaluation formats the SSW will begin implementing 	 Increase the overall amount of financial assistance. Increase the number of students who receive financial assistance. Increase the number of programs available to support all students academically and psychologically. Identify additional sources of student support such as increasing emergency funding, support for caregivers such as child care, student networks for finding roommates, housing, ride-sharing, and other resource sharing. 	Associate Dean for Academic Programs School of Social Work Dean	Additional funds for financial assistance
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Staff	Five-Year Strategic Objective 3: Increase the diversity of staff from underrepresented groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and diverse sexual identities, and gender expressions.	 Increased numbers of staff from underrepresented groups. Demonstrated effort to increase diversity in every aspect of staff recruitment. 	 Increased transparency in hiring & recruitment by, for example, posting all new staff positions on a page on the School of Social Work website. Human Resource Administrators will provide quarterly reports to the School's leadership on: Number and location of positions posted Number of internal and external applicants Number of internal interviews Number of hires or promotions Number of internal applicants that did
	expressions.		 b. Number of internal and external applicants c. Number of internal and external interviews d. Number of hires or promotions e. Number of internal applicants that did
			not receive the position but instead received career counseling 3. Explore methods for identifying and tracking recruitment and hiring of staff with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ identities. 4. Review how we have

	from underrepresented groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and LGBT identities.	

Staff	Five-Year Strategic Objective 4: Ensure consistent support for supportive career development and professionally rewarding work experiences.	 Annual reports by supervisors. Increased satisfaction as measured by School climate survey or other instruments. 	 Identify additional ways of communication to inform all staff of career development opportunities. Offer diversity, equity and inclusion skill development programs specifically for staff Highlight the schedule of professional development opportunities each year, and address any barriers to participation Reward diversity, equity and inclusion leadership among staff 	Assistant Dean for Administration, and Operations	
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Faculty	Five-Year Strategic	1.	Increased numbers of	1.	The Faculty Search and	Dean
	Objective 5:		faculty from	''	Executive Committees will	
	, -		underrepresented		engage in specific efforts	Associate Dean
	Increase the diversity		groups.		to increase diversity to be	for Faculty
	of faculty from	2.	Demonstrated effort to		included in every faculty	Affairs
	underrepresented		increase diversity in		search or new	SSW Dean
	groups, including racial and ethnic		every aspect of faculty		appointment. These	
	minorities, people		recruitment.		specific efforts will be	
	with disabilities, and				distributed in writing to	
	diverse sexual				every faculty member, but	
	identities, and gender				specifically to members of	
	expressions.				the Search Committee.	
				2.	Require faculty search	
					committees to include	
					documentation of efforts	
					to reach diverse candidates	
					as part of the search	
				_	process.	
				3.	Designate a member of the search committee as a	
					diversity champion on each	
					faculty search committee	
					who is empowered to and	
					responsible for	
					encouraging outreach and	
					awareness of diversity,	
					equity and inclusion issues	
					in the search process.	
				4.	Identify professional	
					associations, networks,	
					and individuals who may	
					include or reach	
					underrepresented scholars	
					and assure that they	

	5.	receive any new faculty posting. All members of the search committee will participate in ADVANCE training for faculty search committee members. Rate all job applicants and candidates on their demonstrated commitment to DEI as reflected in their research, teaching, or service.	

Faculty	Five-Year Strategic Objective 6: Ensure consistent support for career development of all	1. 2.	Successful promotion of junior faculty to associate level Increased satisfaction levels as reported in	1. 2.	· · · · · ·	Dean Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
	junior faculty		climate survey or other instruments.	3.	faculty understanding of tenure and promotion system. Provide support for faculty promotion and tenure including participation in the Faculty Success Program (FSP) through the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCDD) Ensure that faculty have a clear understanding of the	
					promotion and tenure process and requirements.	

Faculty	Five-Year Strategic Objective 7: Increase the diversity of LEO faculty from	 Increased numbers of LEO faculty from underrepresented groups Demonstrated effort to 	1.	The Associate Dean for Educational Program will identify professional networks to alert more diverse groups to job	Associate Dean for Academic Programs
	underrepresented groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and diverse sexual identities, and gender expressions	increase diversity in every aspect of LEO faculty recruitment	2.	opportunities and diversify applicant pools. Proactively create a diverse pool of potential LEO faculty from which new LEO appointments can be made by linking to professional networks that include diverse social workers	

Faculty	Five-Year Strategic Objective 8: Improve upon hiring and promotion practices to attract, retain, reward, and inspire LEO and Governing faculty to continually hone their ability to facilitate transformational learning via inclusive teaching methods.	 Submit an annual report to the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the School's Executive Committee that provides information on hiring practices such as outreach, screening and interview processes, and means for getting input on hiring from students, faculty and staff. 	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	During hiring searches prioritize facilitation and inclusive teaching skills that engage and contribute to conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion. Develop, deliver, and measure outcomes of professional development on effectively facilitating transformative conversations. Add facilitating transformative conversations to faculty handbook teaching criteria for annual, 3rd year, promotions and tenure reviews for LEO, Clinical, and Tenure Track and Tenured Faculty. Provide schedule of Professional and Faculty Development topics (with opportunity for suggestions to be added on rolling basis). Provide ongoing training for faculty above and beyond on boarding orientation to effectively	Dean Associate Dean for Academic Programs Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs DEI office Associate Dean for Research	
				beyond on boarding		

	 conversations that utilize inclusive teaching methods. Provide incentives for undertaking training that matters to faculty. Provide clear expectations for attention and contribution to diversity, equity and inclusion goals, as evidenced by research/scholarship, teaching, and service activities, in promotion and tenure reviews and in annual reviews. Reward diversity, equity and inclusion leadership among students, staff and faculty. Support faculty scholarship on diversity, equity and inclusion related topics through seed funding
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Students Five-Year Strategic Objective 9: Provide more consistent and supportive faculty advising. Provide more	 Increased number of students who in exit and climate surveys indicate they have met with their advisors at least once each semester. Increased number of students who in exit and climate surveys indicate they indicate they found their advisors to care about them and to be helpful. 	 Increased number of faculty who meet with their advisees at least once a semester Provide faculty training to strengthen student advisement. 	Associate Dean for Academic Programs
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B. Education and Scholarship

Key Constituency	Strategic Objective	Measures of Success	Detailed Actions Planned	Group or persons accountable	Resources needed
Students	Five-Year Strategic Objective 10: Increase DEI focus of offices dealing with outside communities such as the Program Evaluation Group, Office of Global Activities, Continuing Education Program, Community Action and Social Change minor, Office of Field Education .	 Each program will develop a statement of their contribution to DEI in the School of Social Work Contributions to DEI will be incorporated into these programs planning and evaluation. 	 Assess the degree to which these offices' programs contribute to the DEI plan objectives. Consult with office directors and staff to strengthen DEI focused activities. Integrate DEI goals into each offices' annual plan. 	Associate Dean for Research Associate Dean for Academic Programs Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs DEI Office	

Students	Five-Year Strategic Objective 11:Students will develop greater skill and ability to participate, lead and respond in transformational conversations.	 Increased number of students who in course evaluations and other evaluative venues (i.e., focus groups, surveys) indicate they and their instructors were engaged in transformational conversations and that students, gained skills and insights. 	 Continue to ensure that SEED (part of our student orientation) Acidemic Academic Programs and faculty strengthen their skills at holding transformational conversations. Continue to require all incoming MSW students to take the diversity and social justice course (SW 504) with limited Examine the 504 Focus Group Report to create refinements to the course. Ensure the MSW 	
			 effectively integrates Privilege, Oppression, Diversity and Social Justice (PODS). 5. Assess current syllabi for PODS content; step up advising to encourage PODS intensive courses. 6. Evaluate PODS-specific items on student course evaluations. 7. Meet with the School of Education Center for Educational Design, 	

			 Evaluation and Research to develop a comprehensive evaluation plan to assess the integration of PODS content and experiences in courses that includes multiple measurement methods. 8. Assess all proposed courses for contributions to PODS education 	
Faculty	Five-Year Strategic Objective 12: Faculty will acquire greater skill and ability to participate, lead and respond to facilitate transformational learning via inclusive teaching methods	 Increased number of students who in course evaluations and other evaluative venues (i.e., focus groups) indicate they and their instructors were engaged in transformational conversations and that they gained skills on the subject. 	 Maintain or increase the number of faculty development activities devoted to acquiring inclusive teaching for transformational learning. Provide rewards that are part of annual review process that are tangible and of value to Faculty, i.e.: "Excellence in Facilitating Transformative Conversations Award Offer Continuing Education units for faculty development activities when possible. 	Dean Associate Dean for Academic Programs Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs DEI Office

Students <u>Five-Year Strategic</u>	1. More students will	1. The School and faculty will	Associate	Funding
Objective 13:	indicate they	create opportunities for	Dean for	for events
-	indicate they participated in events and were engaged in advocacy activities.	-	Dean for Academic Programs	for events and outside speakers.

C. Promoting an Equitable and Inclusive Community

Key Constituency	Strategic Objective	Measures of Success	Detailed Actions Planned	Group or persons accountable	Resources needed
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14: s Provide more holistic student t	Exit and climate surveys will show that more students indicate they have received a variety of support.1.2.3.4.	 are aware of different sources for emergency funding. Ensure that students are aware of support for student caregivers and student parents. Create a resource similar to the roommate finder where students can collaborate with other students interested in ride sharing, etc. 	Associate Dean for Academic Programs	
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Staff	Five-Year Strategic Objective 15: Staff will have expanded opportunities to participate and engage in career development activities in general and particularly in discussions about Privilege, Oppression, Diversity, and Social Justice (PODS) to understand the application and implications of PODS within the school and the curriculum	2.	Increased number of staff that in climate surveys indicate they have a greater understanding of PODS in the curriculum and the school's operation. Increased number of staff that in climate surveys indicate they feel they are more integrated in school activities.	1. 2. 3.	Staff will have access to regular, accessible, structured opportunities to engage around current events. There will be clarity in the types of events that staff are invited to and if they have permission to attend if the events, or discussion groups, that happen during the workday. Plan and implement an annual all-staff retreat.	Assistant Dean for Administration, and Operations	
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Students	Five Vear Strategic Objective		Increased availability		Increase awareness of	Associate Dean	
Students	Five-Year Strategic Objective	1.	Increased availability	1.			
	<u>16:</u>		of data to be used in		the Bias Response	for Academic	
	Create accountability		monitoring.		Team (BRT), the UM	Programs	
	mechanisms that support	2.	Sophisticated		Ombudsman, and the		
	inclusive participation.		assessment of school		Office of Student		
			climate.		Conflict Resolution at		
		3.	Ongoing assessment		the UM to address		
			of curriculum followed		expressions of bias.		
			by evidence-based	2.	Expand efforts to		
			innovation.		improve awareness of		
					the Bias Response		
					Team (BRT), the UM		
					Ombudsman, and the		
					Office of Student		
					Conflict Resolution at		
					U-M to address		
					expressions of bias.		
				3.	Develop mechanisms		
					to link to OSCR with		
					respect to restorative		
					justice practice		
					approaches to bias		
					incidents in our		
					school.		
				4.	Increase the number		
				•	of formalized		
					procedures for		
					students to address		
					concerns with an		
					emphasis on the		
					identification of		
					solutions.		
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	5. Provide more opportunities for students to share their voices and concerns with faculty.	

Students,	Strategic Objective 17:	Educate our community on	2.	Support unit-level	SSW Dean	
Faculty and	Sexual Harassment and	sexual harassment and		participation in		
Staff	Misconduct Prevention	misconduct prevention in		mandatory training.	Associate Dean	
	Education	an effort to promote a			for Academic	
		safe and supportive			Programs	
		environment for all				
		members to work, learn,			Assistant Dean	
		and thrive.			for	
					Administration	
					and Operations	
					DEI Office	

D. Service

Key Constituency	Strategic Objective	Measures of Success	Detailed Actions Planned	Group or persons accountable	Resources needed
Faculty	Five-Year Strategic Objective 18: Faculty will engage in more purposeful and organized engagement related to populations that are currently, and have historically, been shut off from opportunities. SSW will make public an informed social work discourse related to current events and social justice matters seemed important and part of our responsibility as a school of social work.	 More faculty will participate and lead public events related to issues of social justice affecting society. 	 Faculty will more actively create dedicated, regular, accessible (via Skype, streaming etc.) space to gather and discuss current events as they relate to diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice. 	Associate Dean for Academic Programs DEI Office	

Identify w financial i external o to identif	Strategic Objective 20: vays by which more ntegration can occur with community. There is a need y funding streams and aim sustainability.	1.	Seek sustainable funding to support partnerships with communities.	1. 2. 3. 4.	Pursue funding to support field instructors, community members, for community based- participatory research. Create connections with local K-12 institutions Invite community members to participate in conferences. Develop information resources for community organizations. Facilitate community access to appropriate UM resources.	Associate Dean for Research Associate Dean for Academic Programs DEI Office	
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VII. Plans for Supporting, Tracking and Updating the Strategic Plan

Leadership for all aspects of the DEI strategic plan implementation will be the responsibility of the School of Social Work's Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This office will work with the appropriate deans and directors in the school to provide support and consultation to implement the activities. The office will also conduct specific ongoing educational and support services within the plan. The DEI office will coordinate data collection and work with the Dean, Associate Deans and Director of Administration, Finance and Operations to collate, analyze, and report on data. Semi-Annual reports on our implementation activities will be developed by the DEI office to be shared with all staff, students, faculty, and alumni.