

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD

Notes of the 60th Meeting of the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration

Date: 13 September 2017
Time: 7:15 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room, 26/F Eastern Commercial Centre, 83 Nam On Street, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong.
Present: Mr. SHIU Ka-chun (Convener)
Dr. Chu Cheong-hay
Dr. KWOK Ngai-kuen, Alvin
Mr. IP Kim Ching
Ms. LAW Yee-ming
Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen
Mr. LUN Chi-wai
Apology: Mr. KWAN Wing-shing, Vincent
Ms. LUK Ka-mei
Secretary: Mr. LEE Wing-po, Eric, Registrar and
Ms. FAN Lai-yee, Veronica, Assistant Registrar

Confirmation of the notes of the 59th meeting

1. The notes of the 59th meeting were confirmed without amendments.

Discussion on the first draft of Principles, Criteria and Standards – Section 4.1, 4.2 & 4.3

Section 4.1

2. In response to a member's comments, the Committee agreed the following:
 - (a) 4.1.2: replaced "alternative mode of delivery" by "supplementary mode of delivery".
 - (b) 4.1.4(f): keep "Research and Social Enquiries" in non social work subject areas.
3. In 4.1.3 and 4.1.4, members had diverse views on whether we should delete "these subject areas or components need not be delivered as separate and independent course".
 - (a) There were views with worry if the core subject areas are not in their own separate courses but being broken into pieces and covered in different courses, quality of programme would be affected.
 - (b) There were also opposite views that more flexibility should be provided to TIs in curriculum design and consultation was required if the requirement would be tightened.
 - (c) The meeting decided to put it to voting. Four members (i.e. Dr. Kwok, Dr. Leung, Mr. Lun and Ms. Law) voted to delete the wordings in 4.1.3 and 4.1.4 while three members (i.e. Dr. Chu, Mr. Ip and Mr. Shiu) voted to keep them.
4. Regarding section 4.1.5(b)(ii), the Committee was invited to consider if the minimum fieldwork hours should be changed from 700 hours to 800 hours for diploma programme so

as to align with degree programme, being one of the views collected from consultation. Members had the following concerns:

- (a) It had financial implications to TIs if the minimum fieldwork hour was increased.
- (b) There should be differentiations in the requirements for diploma and degree programmes.
- (c) If fieldwork hour was increased to 800, student workload would become very heavy in order to complete the 800 hours within 2 years.

After discussion, it was agreed to maintain the fieldwork hours at 700 hours for diploma programme.

- 5. Regarding 4.1.5(b)(i), members agreed to change it to “Must be of direct social work practice”.
- 6. Section 4.1.5(c)(ii) point 1 was newly added. Members agreed that it was not necessary to add this point as on-site supervision already implied face-to-face supervision.
- 7. Members agreed to adopt the changes made in 4.1.5(c)(i) and 4.1.5(c)(ii) point 3.
- 8. Members agreed to revise 4.1.5(d) to “at least one placement of not less than half of the required hours should be taken place within the Hong Kong territory.”

Section 4.2

- 9. The Secretary invited the Committee to consider the changes in presentation format. Three members preferred the original one whilst two members preferred the new one and another two had no preference. The Secretary would work on the draft adopting the original presentation format and incorporate the changes before discussion of the contents, in particular the minimum 3 for new programme which had been omitted from the draft.
- 10. The meeting noted that during consultation, there were strong views from TIs for relaxing the requirements on practice experience qualification of teaching staff as they had difficulty in employing teaching staff who possess both 5 years’ post-degree social work practising experience and rich experience in research work. There was another opinion that post-diploma social work practising experience should also be recognized than the current restrictive one of post-degree, citing cases where there were RSWs having possessed rich experience in specified field after completion of diploma in social work but his/her degree or master was acquired afterwards. There were contrary views that the post-degree experience would cover something of more seniority than post-diploma experience, hence the proposed wordings of modifying from post-degree to post-qualification experience.
- 11. In conclusion, the meeting agreed to stand firm on the 5 years’ practicing experience which would be post-qualification, and the proposed conversion of research experience in 4.2.20 (ii) was dropped in its entirety. The full-time qualifier should be modified to be full-time equivalent.

12. In 4.2.2(a), members agreed that the overseas qualification in possession by the teaching staff should be recognized by the Board.
13. In 4.2.3(c), members agreed not to add “should be in possession of either a bachelor or a master degree in social work”.
14. In 4.2.4(b), the Secretary highlighted the proposed changes in SSR. Members were invited to consider whether to align SSR for both diploma and degree programmes. A member expressed that any changes in SSR would have financial implications to TIs as the staff costs were different for diploma and degree programmes and detailed deliberation was required at subsequent meetings.

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15. (Business information deleted)
16. (Business information deleted)
17. (Business information deleted)

Date of next meeting

18. Members agreed that the next meeting would be held on 25 September 2017 at 7:15 pm to discuss the normal agenda items.
19. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

18 September 2017