

Social Justice at Silver School of Social Work

Student Recommendations

May 2018

Priorities from the Social Justice Praxis Committee

We propose the following four actions in alignment with the repeated recommendations of the Social Justice Praxis Committee (2016-17 SJDC Annual Report):

1. The Dean should address the student body multiple times a year regarding issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion
2. Mandate diversity and equity training and professional development for ALL faculty members
3. Infuse social justice and equity into the curriculum
4. Create a *full time* Social Justice Praxis Director position

Immediately Actionable Proposals

We also propose that the following readily implementable actions be carried out by the end of the of the Fall Semester 2018:

5. Create and post plaques recognizing the indigenous people who lived on the land that the Silver School of Social Work buildings stand upon, in consultation with the Native American and Indigenous Student Group at NYU
6. Support spaces for students of color and students of other underrepresented identities by doubling current funding for student groups

School Climate and Student Life

7. Increase promotion of student scholarship and resources via the Student Affairs office
8. Establish a formal mentorship program between faculty and students
9. Equip the student lounge with microwaves, a refrigerator, vending machine, and everyday appliances
10. Provide dedicated student group office space

Curriculum

11. Increase the number of courses with predominantly mezzo and macro social work practice content
12. Create a mandatory DROP Pre-Course 'Webinar' for incoming students to prepare them with a basic understanding of the course
13. Make the new DROP II course a permanent addition to the curriculum
14. Develop and implement a comprehensive framework for socially just social work education, per the SJPC charge

Field Learning

15. Improve field placements by enhancing processes for screening, evaluation, and follow up on student feedback
16. Make the Seminar In Field Instruction (SIFI) syllabus publicly available and include explicit content in the syllabus on addressing race and oppression in the supervisory relationship
17. Ensure equity and consistency in the field placement process and in changing field placements

Faculty

18. Prioritize hiring and retention of faculty of color and of other marginalized identities and the inclusion of students in the hiring process
19. Prioritize accountability for professors in the classroom by appointing an oversight committee comprised of students and faculty to address student concerns about classroom behavior

Enhancing Diversity and Equity in the Student Body

20. Include questions about racial and social justice in the application process
21. Investigate best practices for equitable recruitment
22. Retool scholarship distribution algorithms to be more equitable for non-traditional and students from marginalized backgrounds