

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE

September 22, 2009

Working Group

James P. Adams, Ph.D.
Larry E. Davis, Ph.D.
Richard L. Edwards, Ph.D.
Marilyn Flynn, Ph.D.
Sarah Gehlert, Ph.D.
Grover C. Gilmore, Ph.D.
James J. Kelly, Ph.D.
Wynne Sandra Korr, Ph.D.
Nancy J. Smyth, Ph.D.

Via E-mail (rbarth@ssw.umaryland.edu)

Original Via U.S. Mail

Richard P. Barth, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Social Work
Room 5E14
University of Maryland
525 West Redwood Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Mailing Address

c/o Mandel School
of Applied Social Sciences
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106-7164

Dear Dean Barth:

Visitors and

Delivery Address

c/o Mandel School
of Applied Social Sciences
11235 Bellflower Road
Cleveland, OH 44106-7164

It is with great pleasure that we notify you of your selection as a member of the inaugural class of Fellows and, concurrently, as a member of the first Board of Directors of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (the "Academy"). The Academy comes to fruition after years of discussion and the efforts of many. More recently, in January 2009, a Working Group was established to devise a mission statement and preliminary structure for an honorific academy. The Group was facilitated by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), however the Academy will be a free-standing entity with a virtual office to be located initially at Case Western Reserve University.

Phone

(216) 368-4278

The Mission of the Academy is as follows:

E-Mail

aaswsw@case.edu

The American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (Academy) is an honorific society of distinguished scholars and practitioners dedicated to achieving excellence in the field of social work and social welfare through high impact work that advances social good. The Academy has been established to:

- *Encourage and recognize outstanding, premier quality research, scholarship, and practice that contribute with demonstrated impact to a sustainable, equitable, and just future;*
- *Inform social policy by serving as a frontline source of information for the social work profession as well as Congress and other government agencies and non-government entities charged with advancing the public good;*
- *Promote examination of social policy and application of research to determine alternatives and impacts on society; and*
- *Celebrate excellence in social work and social welfare research, education, and practice.*

It has been the vision of the Academy Working Group that the initial Board of Directors will serve staggered terms of two, three, or four years. This will allow for two classes of Fellows to be inducted before they must elect new Board members, allowing for a

Richard P. Barth, Ph.D.
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greater period of continuity. The Chair of the Board will be selected by the members of the Board of Directors.

The initial Board of Directors will solicit nominations and make the selection of the next class of Fellows. They will also approve a business plan including the structure of fees and sustainability of the Academy.

Initial administrative support will be provided through an in-kind contribution by Case Western Reserve University with additional monetary support coming from other institutions. Details regarding support will be provided to each Board member upon acceptance of appointment. In addition, other research and background information collected by the Working Group will be transmitted to the new Board in advance of a joint conference call.

The Board of Directors/Fellows will be announced at the CSWE Annual Program Meeting Opening Ceremony on November 6. The Board members, as well as the Working Group, will be seated onstage. Please notify us of your willingness to accept this appointment by Friday, October 2. You may respond via e-mail to aaswsw@case.edu. If you have questions regarding the appointment, you may contact any member of the Working Group.

Sincerely,

THE WORKING GROUP OF THE
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Gilmore".

Grover C. Gilmore, Ph.D.
Working Group Member

GCG/jel

Enclosure

**American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare
July 1, 2009**

Mission

The American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (Academy) is an honorific society of distinguished scholars and practitioners dedicated to achieving excellence in the field of social work and social welfare through high impact work that advances social good. The Academy has been established to:

- Encourage and recognize outstanding, premier quality research, scholarship, and practice that contribute with demonstrated impact to a sustainable, equitable, and just future;
- Inform social policy by serving as a frontline source of information for the social work profession as well as Congress and other government agencies and non-government entities charged with advancing the public good;
- Promote examination of social policy and application of research to determine alternatives and impacts on society; and
- Celebrate excellence in social work and social welfare research, education, and practice.

Structure

Initial Board of Directors

The initial five-member Board of Directors will be selected by discussion of the Workgroup, but may not include members of the Workgroup. The initial Board members will serve staggered terms of two, three, or four years. This will allow for two classes of fellows to be inducted before they must elect new Board members. It will also allow for a greater period of continuity. Initial Board member terms could also be extended if a greater period of continuity is desired and circumstances warrant. The Chair of the Board will be selected by the members of the Board of Directors. The qualifications for membership on the initial Board of Directors will be:

1. An awardee of a national prestigious award that honors persons for excellence in scholarship, research, practice, or education;
2. Persons recognized for their contributions in service to other organizations and their interest and ability to continue shaping the Academy;
3. Persons knowledgeable and with a broad network for purposes of encouraging nominations for membership as Fellows of the Academy; and
4. Persons with skills in financial operations as well as the governmental relations interests of the Academy.

Board Members will serve as the first class of Fellows. The initial Board of Directors will solicit nominations and select the next class of Fellows. They will also approve the business plan that speaks to the structure of fees and sustainability of the Academy.

Board of Directors

The Academy will be governed by a five-member Board of Directors that will be selected annually by the Fellows of the Academy. Members will serve a 3-year term and terms will be staggered. The Chair of the Board will be selected by the members of the Board of Directors. Members of the Board must be current Fellows.

The Board shall act on the Academy's mission, thereby serving the needs of its membership, subject to the provisions of law and organizational Bylaws. The Board shall:

- set policy for the Academy;
- engage in an ongoing planning process to create long-term and annual goals for itself and its members and monitor the progress the Board makes in meeting these goals;
- perform its own self assessment on the basis of annual goals and tasks set by the Board;
- elect Board officers, including Chair, Vice Chair/Secretary, and Treasurer;
- establish a schedule for membership dues and set fees for induction;
- fill any vacancy on the Board until the next election; and
- approve and monitor the annual budget and investment portfolio.

Fellows

The Fellows will be the honorific group selected to fulfill the mission of the Academy. Fellowship in the Academy is a mark of professional achievement, notable career development, and a high degree of professionalism. The standards for induction as a Fellow and the review process are rigorous. Nominees must meet and document all criteria and standards to the satisfaction of the Academy Fellows selection committee. It is the responsibility of the nominee to demonstrate to the Academy selection committee that they meet the requirements.

In the selection of Fellows, consideration is given to the following criteria:

1. Evidence of outstanding contributions to social work and social welfare through research, teaching, or practice;
2. Evidence of the sustainability and continued promise of the contributions over time;
3. Evidence of the impact of contributions on other scholars and practitioners, as well as bettering the human condition; and
4. Evidence of leadership potential to contribute to the mission and goals of the Academy.

DRAFT

A scholarly or academic contribution should be something discovered/invented/learned that is unique in terms of previous understandings. A more practical, but equally significant, contribution may involve a new application of a common concept.

The following are notes for use by the initial Board of Directors. (These plans will not be implemented by the Working Group.)

Tentative Timeline for Nominations and Inductions

Call for nominations: November 10, 2009

Applications, including endorsements must be submitted by the nominee: January 15, 2010

Completed review of nominee materials and selection: February 15, 2009

Notification of nominees and invitation to formal induction ceremony: February 15, 2009

Induction of Fellows: last week of March 2010

Following the election of the first class of Fellows by the Board of Directors, subsequent classes of Fellows will be selected annually by the Fellows or a sub-committee of Fellows. The first class inducted after the initial Board of Directors will be modest in size, including approximately 20 fellows.

Upon selection, the initial class of Fellows will also begin the consultative process that will in part fulfill the Academy's mission. This will be done through the development and implementation of an annual Symposium on a topic of national interest to be held annually, possibly in conjunction with another national meeting, so long as the venue is appropriate to a broad base of the recognized individuals. As the Academy matures, other consultative processes will be initiated and carried out as part of the responsibility of the Fellows. In addition, the Academy could be convened in response to a national crisis without being held in conjunction with any other event.

Fee Structure

- Fellows must pay an induction fee and an annual membership fee.
- Note for initial Board: for your reference, annual dues for the National Academy of Engineering are \$200 and American Academy of Nursing dues are \$365
- Fellows who are contacted or work through the Academy on a consultative basis would agree to a certain conditions regarding payment/honoraria etc. with some of their reimbursement to go to the Academy (this would need clarification, but it could provide a nice funding stream to the Academy).