



MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: T. Chris Riley-Tillman, Provost and Executive Vice President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Chris Riley-Tillman".

SUBJECT: Updated Notice of Intent to Create a Department of Social Work

DATE: August 21, 2025

The Faculty Affairs Committee reviewed the Notice of Intent (NOI) to establish a Department of Social Work in Spring 2025. At that time, the proposal placed the new department within the College of Nursing. Since then, academic leadership has continued to evaluate the most appropriate college home for the department, with careful consideration of disciplinary alignment.

Through a collaborative process involving the WSU Tri-Cities Chancellor and the deans of both the College of Nursing and the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences (CESHS), it was determined that CESHS is a more suitable academic home. This decision was shaped by discussions with campus and college leadership and is consistent with the long-standing plan to establish an independent Department of Social Work.

From the beginning, the creation of a standalone department has been a necessary step toward accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). CSWE requires programs to demonstrate faculty governance, control over curriculum and budget, and established tenure and promotion standards—elements that are better supported within CESHS. The social work faculty and Interim BSW Director support the transition to the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences.

An updated NOI reflecting this change is attached. We consider the revised NOI ready to proceed through the Faculty Senate review process.