Administrative history note:
The Bachelor of Social Work degree course was approved by Council on 14 September 1964 to begin operations in 1965 (resolution 64/170). At the 8 October 1963 meeting of the Professorial Board it had already been deemed that the "School of Sociology be academically responsible for the proposed degree course in Social Work under the administration of the Board of Vocational Studies" (resolution 63/365).

It was not, however, until 13 September 1965 that a position of Associate Professor of Social Work within the School of Sociology was created by Council (resolution 65/104). On 8 November 1965 Norma Parker was appointed to this position (resolution 65/164) - taking up duty on 1 February 1966.

On 11 September 1967 the Department of Social Work was officially created within the Board of Vocational Studies with all "staff directly involved in the degree of Bachelor of Social Work to be separated from the School of Sociology" (resolution 67/160). Associate Professor Parker was named as the first head of department.

On 13 November 1967 Council established the first chair of social work and noted that "when the chair of Social Work is established and filled, the Department of Social Work shall become the School of Social Work". Professor R. J. Lawrence was appointed to this position on 8 July 1968 (resolution 68/109) and when he took up duty on 28 November 1968 the School of Social Work came into being.

On 12 November, 1973 Council changed the name of the Board of Vocational Studies to the Board of Professional Studies (resolution 73/231). A year later, on 11 November 1974, Council approved the reconstitution of the Board into the Faculty of Professional Studies from 20 January 1975 (resolution 74/227).

At the 2 December 1996 meeting of Council the Faculty of Professional Studies was disestablished effective 1 January 1997 (resolution CL96/88/4). As a result, from this date the School of Social Work was transferred to the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences.

As part of a Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences restructure, the School of Social Work was disestablished effective 31 January 2007. It was amalgamated with the schools of Politics & International Relations, Sociology & Anthropology and Social Science & Policy to form the new School of Social Sciences & International Studies (6 February 2007 Academic Board papers).