

**Welfare Council Special Meeting Minutes (draft)**  
**March 16, 2011**  
**1:00 p.m., 239 Tigert**

<b>Attendees:</b>	Monika Ardelt	Kathye Light
Paula Fussell	Tom Vickroy	
Heather McAuslane	Sue Alvers	

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes from February 23, 2011 were approved with one addition.

**Old Business**

Kathye asked if members have heard any feedback from their college “town meetings” during the past month. Monika noted that she passed the legislative information on to her colleagues, but she didn’t receive any responses, either for or against.

Report from the Steering Committee meeting is that some legislative proposals have been revised since last month. SUSORP is back in. However, no change to the elimination of defined benefits. Employees’ mandatory payment of 5% towards retirement is now down to 3%.

**New Business**

At Steering Committee, Kathy Long gave a short presentation about the redevelopment of the Teaching and Learning Center. She mentioned that the center wants to make it mandatory for new faculty and weak instructors to utilize for teaching improvement. It was noted that in the past, large workshops and seminars were well attended by faculty. After a management change, seminars consisted more of little workshops and videos and the attendance dropped off. Suggestion was made that more emphasis should be on peer review evaluations of student evaluations. Kathye encouraged the council to keep up with the happenings of the TLC as evaluations are a faculty welfare matter. Many faculty do not have exposure to their peers in other colleges. Taking advantage of the TLC will assist with making contacts for interdisciplinary research. Heather mentioned that TLC sounds like CALS’ Teaching Resource Center.

Budget Council is working on a report about the RCM model. It was reported at the Steering Committee that the members of the council were originally opposed to RCM; however after researching found that it should work. It was noted that there is a list of unintended consequences that the financial people are working through. Instituting the RCM model will make spending more transparent and will always be a work in progress.

Discussion revolved around activity reports: effort certification and faculty assignment reports. Faculty are distressed about not getting credit for teaching and advising students. Paula will invite Jim Ferrer to explain the new online reporting system. It was emphasized that the council should stay abreast of this issue.

Paula clarified her statement at the last meeting about the tuition lottery. At the moment, the Higher Education Opportunity lottery is only for staff children. She will propose increasing the lottery awards to 100 recipients and open it up to faculty and staff children.

**Other Discussion**

Heather asked about what returns departments are getting from the online student evaluations. Tom stated that he’s had low returns, but there were communication problems that cause the low return. Some instructors are offering incentives to get students to do the evaluations.

Meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

DRAFT