

The Welfare Council focuses on matters that support, encourage, define, and evaluate the quality of the faculty and retention of faculty members, including faculty rights and academic freedom; faculty support programs, such as fringe benefit packages; faculty diversity; and programs that improve the quality of faculty life. Below we detail the primary discussions of the Welfare Council in 2014-2015.

President's Council on Diversity Campus Climate Survey

During the Fall, the Welfare council worked closely with Jarrod Cruz-Stipstits and Shari Robinson from the President's Council on Diversity on the formulation of the Diversity Climate Survey. The survey, which will be administered to all UF employees, was developed by the Council on Diversity and represents the first time that the Climate on Diversity at UF will be assessed. The goal of the survey is to understand how diversity and inclusion is being experienced by the faculty and staff.

On and Off Campus Tutoring

SERU data suggest that UF students consistently rely on Off Campus Tutoring services. Faculty have raised concerns regarding the use of and practices by Off Campus Tutoring services. The Council met with Dr. Winifred Cooke, Director, and Robert Bailey, SI Coordinator of the Broward Teaching Center to better understand the resources provided by UF. It was clear to the Council that the Broward Teaching Center provides significant resources to students and that faculty knowledge of these services is limited and financial support of these services are likely lower than optimal.

Assessment and Enhancement of Teaching

The Council has a long history of investigating the practices of assessing teaching performance at UF and the issues that online student teaching evaluations may pose. The council in conjunction with the Office of Faculty Development for Teaching and Technology and the Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars, has begun the writing of a formal "white paper" outlining the collective opinion on best practices for assessing and enhancing teaching excellence at UF. The working document is currently being circulated among these groups.

Graduate Student Mentoring

In conjunction with the Graduate School, the Welfare Council is developing a workshop on Graduate Student Mentoring that will be submitted to the CALS Teaching and Enhancement Symposium as well as the New Faculty Orientation. The goal is to provide faculty resources and skills to enhance their mentoring of professional and graduate trainees. The proposed program is one hour long and identifies leadership characteristics and resources on campus that may facilitate effective and efficient training of graduate and professional students.