

Welfare Council Minutes
February 10, 2015
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. 226 Tigert

Attendees:	Rich Segal	Jennifer Smith
Chris Hass	Angel Kwolek-Folland	Amanda House
Sue Alvers	Jodi Gentry	Mario Poceski
James Maruniak	Margaret Temple-Smith	

Chris Hass, Chair of Welfare Council, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. January minutes were approved.

New Business

- Jennifer Smith, Director, Office of Faculty Development and Teaching Excellence
Ms Smith explained that the Office of Faculty Development and Teaching Excellence is a new office that was started the first of this year. The duties of this office are to encompass all aspects of teaching and learning. However, because this is a newly formed office with only one staff person, they are mostly focusing on online course development with peer assessment coming at a future date.

The council continued discussing peer assessment and peer mentoring. One suggestion was to ask the Academy of Distinguished Scholars to volunteer to evaluate teaching and course development.

Best Practice Paper on the Evaluation of Teaching

- The council decided to write a best practice paper on how to improve teaching with plans to post it on the website.
- Concern was raised about student's course evaluations and whether they actually measure teaching or popularity of the instructor. Many council members questioned whether 19 year old students are mature enough to separate course evaluations from personalities. How do we get beyond superficial evaluations? One idea was to create about 10 additional questions, use as a pilot for UFOonline before rolling out to the rest of campus.
- Suggestion: It would be helpful to have standards or criteria available to assist faculty that are evaluating peers.

Mentoring Graduate Student Symposium

- At the last meeting, the Council discussed including a graduate student mentoring symposium during New Faculty Orientation.
- Faculty want to do a good job and having more resources available for them would be helpful.
- Suggestion: Tape presentations at symposiums and post on the web for future use.

The Welfare Council meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.