

Welfare Council Minutes
January– 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. 226 Tigert

Attendees:	Margaret Temple-Smith	Amanda House
Chris Hass	Blake Robertson	Mario Poceski
Sue Alvers	Jasmeet Judge	

Chris Hass, Chair of Welfare Council, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. December 2014 minutes were approved. Welfare Council has two action items for this year:

- Write a best practice on teaching evaluations and the use of peer review
- Develop a graduate student mentoring symposium to be presented at new faculty orientation and to become part of CALS faculty development.

Best Practice Paper on the Evaluation of Teaching

- Margaret Temple- Smith noted that after researching minute and agendas of other councils that the Academic Policy Council is working on increasing student participation with online course evaluations. She suggested that Welfare should coordinate with the APC because that council has researched and reviewed a large amount of information. She mentioned that APC hasn't made any recommendations or conclusions as of today.
- Welfare's focus is on best practices of teaching and peer evaluations. APC is working on online course evaluation response.
- Concern was raised about student's course evaluations and whether they actually measure teaching or popularity of the instructor. In some colleges, teaching evaluations are all that is used to decide continued employment for an adjunct. There are also problems with peer evaluations when faculty are reluctant to evaluate their colleagues. The perception is that it is a waste of time.
- Welfare decided to write a best practice paper on how to improve teaching. Plans are to post it on the website.
- Chris will invite Jennifer Smith, Director of the Office of Faculty Development for Teaching and Technology to a future meeting to discuss teaching and peer evaluations.
- Margaret and Mario will have an outline ready for the next Welfare Council meeting.

Mentoring Graduate Student Symposium

- At the last meeting, the Council discussed including a graduate student mentoring symposium during New Faculty Orientation. It was decided at this meeting that Chris and Jasmeet will work on an outline for the symposium for the next council meeting.

The Welfare Council meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.