

**Welfare Council Minutes**  
**November 4, 2014 – 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. 226 Tigert**

<b>Attendees:</b>	James Maruniak	Kim Pace
Chris Hass	Amanda House	Angel Kwolek-Folland
Sue Alvers	Maggie Temple-Smith	Ken Gerhardt

Chris Hass, Chair of Welfare Council, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. October 2014 minutes were approved.

**Updates on Old Business**

- President' Council on Diversity Campus Climate Survey
  - The Climate Survey is finalized and submitted to the IRB for approval. Council on Diversity plans to do a pilot this fall.
- Graduate School/Graduate Student Mentoring
  - At the May Faculty Senate meeting, Josh Neumann (graduate student senate rep) asked the senate to review graduate student mentoring.
  - Amanda asked CTSI if graduate student mentoring is part of their professional development series. She found out that CTSI does not any development on graduate student mentoring.
  - Suggestions:
    - Ask to add graduate student mentoring to New Faculty Orientation
    - Review the Graduate School website to see if there are any criteria for mentoring. Read the personal statements of those who received Graduate Student Mentoring awards.
    - Many department already have professional mentoring for graduate students
    - Jim Maruniak will contact Dean Frierson of the Graduate School to find out what the Graduate School has to offer.
    - Post Best Practices on the website.

**New Business**

- Faculty Ombudsman
  - Ken Gerhardt was named the Faculty Ombudsman. The Ombuds will provide informal, impartial, and independent assistance for faculty seeking information on University conflict resolution processes. This position does not advocate for faculty. The office was started a couple months ago and now has a website:  
<http://faculty.ombuds.ufl.edu/> .
- [SERU Data Revealed](#)
  - SERU Survey is a 20-25 minute survey that is taken every two years by undergraduates of the University. UF has had one of the highest response rates at 58%. Results of the survey are available on the [Institutional Research website](#). Even though the survey showed that UF students study less, party more and attend class less than their peers, the council found it noteworthy that UF students volunteer more than their peers.

**Discussion**

- Margaret Temple-Smith stated that she is concerned that the response rate for students doing course evaluations has dropped significantly since the evaluations went online. She also mentioned that the questions that are on the evaluations are extremely vague. The questions should be retooled because the results are used for a high percentage of the instructor's annual evaluation. Angel Kwolek-Folland noted that Mike McKane came to the council last year and stressed that colleges should include peer assessment along with other useful ways for

instructor evaluations. Angel suggested that the Council can do a statement or report to encourage Best Practices and providing resources for colleges to use. It was noted that the Academic Policy Council is in the process of looking at this issue and Welfare will contact APC.

- In summary for the future:
  - James Maruniak will contact Dean Henry Frierson about Graduate Student Mentoring and if the Graduate School provides workshops
  - Discuss an action statement about online course evaluations
  - Discuss outside tutoring and why students favor that instead of what is offered on campus. It was suggested to contact Winnie Cooke, Director of Broward Teaching Center as a future guest.

The Welfare Council meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.