

Welfare Council Minutes
September 16, 2015
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. 202 Tigert

Attendees:	Paul Davenport	Sue Alvers
Jasmeet Judge	Karen Whalen	Amanda House
Ray Thomas	Mei-Fang Lan	Margaret Temple-Smith

Karen Whalen, Chair of Welfare Council, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and introductions were made. April's minutes were approved.

Old Business

- Chris Hass distributed a very early Welfare Council draft whitepaper on teaching assessment at the last meeting. Karen will contact Chris for an update on the draft.
- Karen and Margaret Temple-Smith attended the teaching workshop presented by the Academic Teaching Scholars. They stated that it was a very good symposium.

Faculty Club

- Paul Davenport explained that the Board of Trustees charged him with presenting a plan for a Faculty Club by December. Plans are for donors to renovate University House as a conference center and Faculty Club. Chris Hass, Bradley Walters, Karen Whalen and Amanda House met with Curtis Reynolds and Charles Lane to review initial drafts. Thoughts are to make the Club similar to the Delta Skyclub.

Per Diem travel reimbursement

- Faculty have been complaining about the per diem travel reimbursement not covering actual costs. Paul explained that the per diem travel reimbursement is a state mandate. He has contacted the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates organization about addressing the legislature to revise the reimbursement.

Charges from the Faculty Senate Chair

- Please keep a check on the use of Academic Analytics by the university. Paul emphasized that the program should be used as a tool not a metric.
- How should the university proceed on the Faculty Club? What ideas does the council have for club amenities?

Faculty evaluations

- Karen distributed the Gatorrater flyer that the university is providing for faculty. This flyer has a list of best practices for higher response rates for course evaluations.
 - Margaret Temple-Smith noted that many students are concerned about confidentiality. She also suggested that the questions need to be changed.
 - Questions were raised as to how the questions could be changed. Are they a state mandate? The first 10 questions have been on the evaluation for years. How can they be revised?

Discussion

- Ray Thomas asked that the HR website become more user friendly for faculty preparing to retire. It would be helpful to have the process posted.

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