

Faculty Senate Welfare Council  
Minutes  
March 24, 2010  
8:45 AM 226 Tigert

Attendees:

Paula Fussell  
Kathy Long  
Shawn Kneipp  
Tony Offerle  
Andy McCollough  
Jack Mecholsky  
Rebecca Jordi

The meeting was called to order at 8:51 AM.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Kathy Long reported that she talked to the Academy about a university wide teaching center and the Academy has a task force that will report back in April about their views of creating such a center.

She stated the services would be fee based.

Jack Mecholsky charged the council to review mental health issues on campus following the Corry Village incident. He would like to council to consider whether mental health services are adequate for faculty, students and staff on campus and how issues are being addressed.

The council discussed ways to disseminate information about mental health services and suggested including more information in new faculty orientation.

The council will discuss this issue further in April.

Andy McCollough discussed online evaluations and provide a background of the issue. Online evaluations are more cost effective and data can be utilized more effectively.

A survey of AAU schools was conducted and 12 of 17 schools have online evaluations. A major concern though is return rate. The task force charged to look into this issue is currently in the data gathering phase and will test the program in three colleges this fall and will increase the number of participants in spring 2011 with hopes of rolling out online evaluations in fall 2011.

Paula Fussell provided an update on the maternity leave pilot program. The university is in the third year of a three year pilot with in-unit faculty. The policy is to advance leave for both maternity and paternity leave. If both parents work at UF, only one can take the leave at a time. Weeks will be deducted from leave balance if the employee leaves the university within one year of receiving the leave. The university would like to offer 12 week advancements to all faculty and staff. Council members recommended that a policy allow both parents to take leave at the same time and to be flexible so faculty can continue research as necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 AM