Welfare Council Meeting 2.19.15

Meeting Location: MUC Board Room

Meeting Convened: 2:30 pm

Meeting Minutes: (Taken by Nancy Huyck)

Members Present: Tim Ozcan, Erin Heil, Ken Moffett, Nancy Huyck, Brian Lueck, Jessica Kerr, Steve Kerber, Kay Gaehle, Mark Hildebrandt

Guests: Tom Jordan, Mary Sue Love, Joel Hardman

Minutes:

Erin Heil: Announcements; A link to the online permission form for the social media policy is now available.

Erin Heil: No other announcements at this time.

Erin Heil: Motion to approve January minutes. No one objected; meeting minutes were approved.

Subcommittee Reports-

Faculty Status: No report.

Faculty Benefits and Facilities: No report

Guest Speakers: Tom Jordan, Mary Sue Love, Joel Hardman joined the room to discuss the Ombuds service policy.

Tom Jordan: Attending to discuss suggestions from the General Counsel on proposed language addition to satisfy possible legal requirements.

Council: Members of the Welfare Council discussed the proposed language the guests were asking the council to consider. The expectation of confidentiality and the recommendation of confidentially “within legal limits” was discussed. The guests mentioned proposing the additional excerpt of language to clarify the existing policy. Limits of confidentiality, Title 9 applications, and the general nature of the ombuds service was discussed.
Nancy Huyck: Posed the question if Title 9 regulations were federal law, and if so would ombuds service representatives have to undergo further training regarding mandatory reporting?

Mary Sue Love: Stated that by policy the ombuds office is not a reporting office.

Jessica Kerr: Posed a question on how participants of the ombuds service are notified of possible confidentiality concerns with regarding to legal compliance?

Steve Kerber: Suggested that clarity could be achieved by contact, rather than changes being written into the policy. Steve also provided an example of how another university had written their policy for ombuds service.

Council: Members of the welfare council discussed the notion of the ombuds service not being a reporting office, except for issues of imminent harm, child abuse or ethics violations.

The council suggested that faculty status take charge of possibly amending the language for consideration.

Erin Heil: Teaching Load policies was brought forward for consideration.

Council: A collective discussion was presented on possible language changes. Primarily, the notion of interchanging “courses” with more specific language to encompass varying credit load differentiations among departments.

Kay Gaehle: Stated that it should be stated clearly at the beginning of the policy that this is referring to tenured faculty, not tenure track.

Ken Moffett: Faculty Benefits and Facilities will look into adopting more clear language on this policy for the next meeting.

Erin Heil: The council needs to begin deciding who will chair the council next year. She will be on sabbatical and unable to do it.

Ken Moffett: Motion to adjourn; agreed to by Mark Hildebrandt.

Meeting adjourned: 4:07 pm.