Welfare and Governance Council  
9/16/2021

Present: Igor Crk, Bob Bitter, Valerie Griffin, Ivy Cooper, Sarajan Weeraratne, Ramana Madupalli, Angela Kim, Cassandra Maynard  
Guests: Seran Aktuna, Nicole Klein, JT Snipes

Meeting called to order at 1433 by co-chair I. Crk

Faculty Ombuds Report: 2020 Annual Report posted to teams and presented by Faculty Ombuds (S Aktuna, N Klein). There has been an increase in contacts/actions last year which appears will be sustained through 2021. Of note, services were moved to virtual in March 2020 due to the pandemic. The Faculty Ombuds will continue to reach out to SIUE departments to engage faculty/instructors. No follow-up is needed this year regarding Ombuds re-appointment procedure, however a call for positions will be needed in Fall 2022. Ombuds serve 3-year terms that are renewable. Currently there is only 1-year overlap with these positions and it would be ideal to have a 2-year overlap. It would also be ideal to have Ombuds from different departments. Sarah and Nicole will discuss any changes needed to the operating papers (a mentoring program, overlap extension) and address with the council as needed.

BFSA Statement: JT Snipes, President of the Black Faculty and Staff Association, presented on the experiences of BIPOC faculty’s service assignments and particularly those of early-career faculty. There was a request to think about systems that can support BIPOC and an increased focus on representation in higher positions. Discussion centered around ways to quantify service and the need to address equitable workloads at the department level through operating papers (as service can vary with each school/department). It was suggested to utilize Vice Chancellor of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Jessica Harris, as a resource and consider addressing service through the operating papers.

OMA Designee: The Council will need a trained individual to serve as the OMA designee. At this time it is unknown if there are any guidelines/instructions regarding who can serve in this role. I Crk will follow-up with Anne Hunter for more information.

Dual-Career policy: This item was held over from last year. This policy has previously been sent to Tom Jordan with questions that need to be addressed. The council will continue to follow-up on this policy.

Non-represented faculty Concerns: item deferred

Faculty Senate: The current structure of the faculty senate and council structure is under revision. There was concern expressed over the merging of councils and the potential for non-represented faculty to be overlooked. Discussion regarding the re-structuring is ongoing.

Public Comment: There were no members of the public present for comment.

Meeting Adjourned at 1600