

## ***ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE***

***Andrew R. Blair, Chair***

***April 15, 2011***

### ***Minutes***

***Present:*** A. Blair (Chair), M. Druzdzal, S. Engberg, J. Grabowski, M. Redfern, C. Golden (Staff Liaison); and J. Manfredi (Vice Provost for Undergraduate Study).

1. ***Approval of the Minutes (A. Blair):*** Dr. Blair asked for a motion from Council members for approval of the February 17, 2011 meeting minutes, which was offered, seconded, and accepted as written. The minutes will be posted to the ACIE website.
2. ***Report of the Chair and Preparation for Instructional Grants Proposal Review (A. Blair):*** Dr. Blair reported that Provost Beeson has approved Council's recommendation to fund eight projects—at the requested amounts--submitted for the Innovation in Education Awards Program 2011. This is the same number of proposals funded for 2010. Statistics on proposal submissions and those funded will be shared at the next Council meeting. On another topic and as an update, Dr. Blair recalled that last year the Best Practices Committee looked at the Faculty Diversity seminar, and members of the committee were interested in introducing diversity more broadly at the University. The conclusion in its report, which was submitted to outgoing Provost Maher, who indicated that he would pass it along to Provost-Elect Beeson, was that the seminar itself is well done and worth continuing; however, the impact was limited due to the small number of participants accepted each year. As a result, members suggested a broader, more systematic approach be developed, modeled on what other universities are doing in this area. Dr. Blair stated that Provost Beeson is sensitive to this issue and will be responsive to the report. One Council member noted that several schools, such as Engineering and Medicine, might be brought together to discuss how they are addressing diversity programming in their areas, and Vice Provost Manfredi reported that, in addition to the sciences departments, other Arts and Sciences departments and programs are also involved in this effort as well.
3. ***Reports of the Committee Chairs***
  - a. ***Best Practices (C. Golden for S. Deitrick, Chair):*** Ms. Golden distributed discussion notes from the Best Practices Committee that reflect a summary of what has been learned to date in response to the Provost's request for a review of the possibility of introducing an online student opinion of teaching system. She reported the main points of such a system that would include benefits to the University in terms of greater efficiency, reliable distribution of surveys, immediate access to results, and assured integrity of the feedback. One common concern among faculty members is the possibility of lower response rates and the overall assurance of student anonymity and privacy. The committee will be recommending that the University move forward with a pilot project which, Dr. Blair added, could be conducted as early as next fall term.
  - b. ***Faculty Development Committee (C. Golden for N. Day, Chair):*** Since its last

meeting, CIDDE learned that there is now a scheduling conflict for the planned Summer Instructional Development Institute session with a conference planned by the School of Education, on a similar topic. The committee discussed this situation and suggested a move to the fall term. The other components of the Institute will go on as previously planned. These offerings will be publicized through the many campus media outlets, including ads in the University Times, CIDDE website, and the usual mailings to faculty.

4. ***Report of the Staff Liaison (C. Golden):*** Ms. Golden reported on three ongoing activities: (1) Blackboard has selected an online course developed by Professor Gail Wolf for an Exemplary Course Award that will be presented to the School of Nursing and the CIDDE online team. They will be honored at the Blackboard World Conference in July. (2) The CourseWeb upgrade is on schedule. CIDDE staff have met with faculty at 20 separate meetings conducted across the University and are getting good feedback. Ms. Golden also noted two additional CourseWeb features to be introduced: Blackboard Mobile, for both students and faculty; and an automatic course creation application that enables faculty to introduce new courses more efficiently and quickly. (3) A copy of Educause's 2011 "The Horizon Report" on technological education was distributed for members' information.
  
5. ***Adjournment:*** With no further business, the Advisory Council adjourned at 12:00 noon. The next regular Council meeting, the last one scheduled for the year, is Thursday, May 12, 12:00 noon, 826 CL.