Present: A. Blair (Chair), J. Brodsky, M. Druzdzel, B. Falcione, L. Glasco, M. Redfern, C. Schunn, and C. Golden (Staff Liaison)

1. Approval of the Minutes (A. Blair): Dr. Blair asked for a motion from Council members for approval of the February 16, 2012 meeting minutes, which was offered, seconded, and accepted as written. The minutes will be posted to the ACIE website.

2. Report of the Chair (A. Blair): Dr. Blair reported that Provost Beeson has approved Council’s recommendation to fund seven projects—at the requested amounts—submitted for the Innovation in Education Awards Program 2012. Statistics for the awards program were distributed for members’ information. Project directors have been informed and an article on this year’s funded projects will be in the Pitt Chronicle after its Commencement issue. Ms. Golden noted that CIDDE will be in contact with funded project directors regarding the website as well as preparing an article for the Teaching Times. Dr. Blair informed Council members that the Provost has received the report of the Best Practices Committee on moving student opinions of teaching to an online process along with Council’s endorsement. The Provost indicated that this report will be discussed initially with the Provost’s senior staff and may then go to the Council of Deans for review.

3. Reports of the Committee Chairs

a. Best Practices (C. Golden for S. Deitrick, Chair): In the absence of Prof. Deitrick and with the OMET/online project report submitted, Ms. Golden reported that the committee did not meet since the last Council meeting.

b. Faculty Development Committee (M. Druzdzel, Chair): At its meeting at the end of March, the committee finalized its plans for the 2012 Summer Instructional Development Institute (SIDI). The focus is Strategies for Improving Learning Outcomes, and speakers and topics are currently being confirmed by CIDDE staff. Session topics are student-centered guided-inquiry approach to instruction; engaging and motivation of student writers, and motivating students to complete assigned readings. The session will be on May 18 and will be held at the University Club. Individual course development sessions for faculty will again be scheduled on request this summer. Details on this program are available on the CIDDE website. The committee also discussed the full series of speakers for CIDDE workshops on the topic “Understanding our Undergraduate Students.” One Council member suggested that such a workshop could present an opportunity for its participants to meet again several months later to follow up (video conferencing or scheduled meetings) and to share individual successes and problems. Other Council members were receptive to this idea, but concrete plans for such an effort would need to be formulated.
4. **Report of the Staff Liaison (C. Golden):** Ms. Golden briefly reported the following: CIDDE has prepared a list of end-of-term assessment options for faculty on its website; CourseWeb (Blackboard) usage has again increased during this academic year; and Pitt Online has received Blackboard’s Exemplary Course Award for the second consecutive year, for the course “Management Essentials Online.”

5. **Adjournment:** With no further business, the Advisory Council adjourned at 11:00 am. The next regular Council meeting, the last one scheduled for the year, is Thursday, May 10, 1:00 pm, 826 CL.