Minutes

Present: A. Blair (Chair), J. Brodsky, S. Deitrick, B. Falcione, J. Grandis, P. Newman, M. Redfern, J. Wallace, 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 April 20, 2012 meeting minutes, which was offered, seconded, and approved. The minutes will be posted to the ACIE website.

2. Report of the Chair (A. Blair): Dr. Blair opened the meeting by noting that this is the final meeting of the Advisory Council for the academic year. He thanked all members for their service on Council and on the Council’s committees and noted, in particular, the members whose terms are expiring: Jeffrey Brodsky (Arts & Sciences), S. Deitrick (GSPIA), M. Gubar (Arts & Sciences), M. Madison (Law), and Raman Venkataramanan (Pharmacy). Dr. Blair then informed the Council that beginning in September he will be returning to the Katz School as a faculty member but will remain in the Provost’s Office to assist in the transition to a new Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and that this person will likely assume the chairmanship of the Advisory Council. Council members present offered their congratulations and wished him well for the future. Dr. Blair also distributed a set of updated demographics of the faculty who submitted proposals for funding under the Innovation in Education Awards program, as well as those who received funding, and statistics on the number of proposals submitted and funded. He noted that these numbers have remained reasonably stable over the past several years.

3. Reports of the Committee Chairs

a. Best Practices (S. Deitrick, Chair): Prof. Deitrick did not have an official report as the committee had not met since its work for the year had been completed. She did note that the final committee report, “Moving from a Paper-Based System to an Online Process for Student Opinion of Teaching,” has been sent to the Provost for her review. Dr. Blair affirmed that this has been done and indicated that the Provost will present the report to the Council of Deans at the next meeting for discussion and advice. On behalf of the committee, she asked about the status of the Faculty Diversity Seminar that had been discussed previously. Dr. Blair reported that the Provost has not yet reviewed this in depth but will revisit this activity in the future.

b. Faculty Development Committee (C. Golden for M. Druzdzel, Chair): Ms. Golden’s committee report focused on the follow up of several efforts on which CIDDE has continued to work. (1) Summer Institutes: SIDI 2012, the workshop, “Strategies for Improving Learning Outcomes,” is scheduled for May 18 and individual faculty consultations with CIDDE instructional designers will be scheduled during the month of May. (2) Fall Planning: CIDDE will again offer the Adjunct Faculty Teaching Series that was quite successful last year—2 sessions are planned to be offered for both the fall and spring terms; with regard to planning for the faculty Book Discussions in October, the book will be “How Learning Works”; CIDDE will continue to focus on assessment...
and online testing (including pedagogy and technology), with a complementary article in the Teaching Times. (3) New Faculty Orientation: Dr. Blair noted that the NFO program for 2013 will be reviewed for possible changes, updating, etc.

4. **Report of the Staff Liaison (C. Golden):** Ms. Golden reported that (1) 400 new courses were added to CourseWeb during a seven-week period in March and April, and routine maintenance is scheduled for the Memorial Day weekend. (2) The annual Faculty Diversity Seminar is scheduled for the second week in May. CIDDE has tried to expand this program’s reach through two scheduled sessions, Teaching About Diversity, and developing Reflective Materials to ensure that students “see themselves in the syllabus.” In response, Dr. Blair asked CIDDE to provide a report on these sessions which he will also share with the Provost for her review of this activity. (3) The School of Information Sciences has now joined Pitt Online with the addition of its long-standing Fast Track MLIS degree program. (4) Ms. Golden is working on plans for a fall conference on Open Courses with a colleague from MIT; she provided a brief presentation on Open Courses and Free Access to Council members, which generated several questions and comments.

5. **Adjournment:** With no further business, the Advisory Council adjourned at 2:00 pm.