
Welcome and Introduction

Andrew Blair, the Council Chair, welcomed members of the Advisory Council, noting that many individuals are new to the Council. Dr. Blair informed the Council that he will be returning to the Katz School as a faculty member but that he will remain in the Provost’s Office for the remainder of the term. He will assist with the transition to a new Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs (Carey Balaban) and a new Vice Provost for Faculty Development (Laurie Kirsch). Dr. Blair will continue to chair the Council for the Fall term.

Approval of the Minutes

Andrew Blair asked for a motion from Council members for approval of the May 10, 2012, meeting minutes, which was offered, seconded, and approved. The minutes will be posted to the ACIE website.

The Provost’s Charge

Prior to delivering the Council charge, Patricia Beeson, the University Provost, discussed two items. She described the University as being at a transition point due to recent cuts in state funding. The University must charge higher tuition because of these changes, but, as a result, it must continue to provide the best educational programming possible. The Provost also thanked the Council for helping OMET and CIDDE implement an online teaching evaluation system. The Council determined that the lower response rates in last year’s pilot study of online surveys were not associated with a significant difference in means from those in the in-class evaluations that were part of the pilot study.

The Provost then delivered the Council charge. She asked Council members to…

- continue to support the Innovation in Education Awards program, emphasizing and encouraging proposals this year focusing on teaching in large-enrollment, undergraduate lecture classes.
- monitor the new OMET online teaching evaluation process and report to her on the outcomes at the end of the year.
- continue to provide oversight of and recommendations for improving CIDDE’s faculty development programs.

Committee Membership

Dr. Blair explained that the Council is organized into two committees. The Best Practices Committee (1) works with CIDDE to examine instructional trends and best practices in
instruction and instructional support and (2) provides advice for new programs and practices or changes in existing ones to promote best practices at the University. The Faculty Development Committee advises CIDDE and the Council on (1) the content and focus of specific faculty development programs and (2) recommends new programs or changes in existing ones.

The Best Practices Committee will include the following Council members: L. Glasco, G. Hatfull, D. Jenkins, S. Meyer, P. Mirchandani, M. Roberts, C. Schunn (Chair), J. Wallace, and A. Blair (ex officio).

The Faculty Development Committee will include the following individuals: P. Chew, M. Druzdzel (Chair), B. Falcione, J. Grabowski, J. Grandis, M. Kerr, P. Newman, N. Themudo, and A. Blair (ex officio).

**Innovation in Education Awards**

Copies of last year’s Innovation in Education Awards RFP were circulated to Council members, who subsequently discussed changes to the RFP’s language. Per the Provost’s request, they agreed upon language that emphasized proposals directed at undergraduate classes with large lecture sections.

**CIDDE Report**

Cynthia Golden, Director of the Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education, delivered the staff liaison report. She commented on a number of items.

The Summer Instructional Development Institute was a great success, with approximately 100 individuals attending. CIDDE will bring back one of the speakers, Professor Rick Moog from Franklin and Marshall College, on November 5 for an all day seminar on designing courses following the principles for process-oriented group inquiry learning.

Faculty education and outreach activities continue apace:

- Since mid-June, sixty-five faculty members have requested consultations with CIDDE’s teaching and learning consultants. This number is much higher than in previous years.
- CIDDE is continuing its outreach to part-time faculty members with workshops on the basics of teaching and syllabus design. These workshops are offered on evenings and weekends.
- Faculty development activities this year will include a wide array of workshops on topics ranging from designing effective assessments to a number of sessions focused on making effective use of educational technologies.

Effective this past June, OMET now reports through CIDDE. The units will begin integrating their teams, starting with the Testing Centers.

The transition to online student evaluations of teaching continues. This academic year faculty may still request a paper survey, but online surveys will become mandatory next year. As of Wednesday, September 5, one third of requests were in for the Fall term. Seventy percent of these requests were for online surveys, and thirty percent were for paper surveys.
Pitt Online

• Was awarded the Blackboard Exemplary Course Award for Management Essentials Online
• Launched two new programs: The School of Information Science’s “Fast Track” MLIS (formerly offered solely by the School), and the School of Nursing’s MSN in Informatics
• Completed an accessibility review of all courses for access by blind and visually impaired students
• Developed accessibility tutorials for online courses
• Enrolled 247 Students for the Fall term (30 percent out of state and two international students).

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 AM. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 15 at 11:00 AM.