

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE**  
**October 3, 2022, 12-1 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Present (in-person):** M. Bridges (Chair) Provost Cudd, Y. Ding, B. Falcione, L. Delale-O'Connor, G. Glover, R. Jones

**Present (via Zoom):** B. Barnhart, A. Dakroub, S. Dickerson, S. Goodkind, H. Lee

**Absent:** C. Bonneau, D. Och, C. Perfetti

**Welcome and Introductions**

Mike Bridges called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed members. He asked each member (including continuing members) to identify themselves and indicate whether they are new or continuing members, their schools and departments, and length of service at Pitt.

Welcome to new members:

- Barbara Barnhart (Pitt-Greensburg, Biology)
- Chris Bonneau (Arts & Sciences, Political Science)
- Lori Delale-O'Connor (Education, Education Foundations, Organization/Policy)
- Allie Dakroub (Medicine, General Internal Medicine)
- Samuel Dickerson (Engineering, Electrical & Computer)
- Sara Goodkind (Social Work, Sociology, GSWS)
- Dana Och (Arts & Sciences, Film & Media Studies)
- Ying Ding (Public Health, Biostatistics)

**Overview and brief ACIE historical background**

This 2022-2023 academic year marks the reconvening of the Council since the beginning of the pandemic and the welcoming of several new members. The council went on hiatus in 2021. The former Provost Jim Maher established the Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence in 1998. He chaired the council during the 1998-99 academic year. Vice Provost Andrew Blair assumed the chair the following year followed by Vice Provost Juan Manfredi, Vice Provost Laurie Kirsch, and most recently, Associate Provost and Executive Director of the University Center for Teaching and Learning Cynthia Golden. This year, Mike Bridges, interim executive director of the University Center for Teaching and Learning will chair the committee for the 2022-2023 academic year.

ACIE “advises the provost on the means to encourage instructional development and teaching excellence at the University of Pittsburgh.”

**Provost Charge**

Ann E. Cudd, in her fifth year as provost, provided additional historical background. The first charge, when she came to the University four years ago, was the impetus to use the Office of Measurement and Evaluation of Teaching's (OMET) student satisfaction surveys to study the assessment issue and develop recommendations for broader assessment of teaching, beyond student surveys.

In previous years, the Teaching Center played a key role in advising schools on how they might use the recommendations in their departments and gave comments on the school's assessment of teaching plans. Emphasis and commitment to exceptional teaching at Pitt required reinvention of teaching practices. In this context, the provost identified key features of exceptional teaching.

- Focus and stress the importance of inclusive teaching to serve our ever-increasing diverse student body. We will accomplish this through evidence-based teaching practices.
- Programming is necessary where we can improve diversity and inclusion in teaching. We are becoming more diverse, including geographic diversity. The University's enrollment now includes beyond the Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania regions.
- Pay attention to statistics that show male students has become the minority in undergraduate programs. Improve the University's enrollment.

### **Charge 1: Master Teacher Certification Program**

- Offer recommendations as a complement to assessment of teaching. Provost Cudd encourages the Council to work with the Teaching Center who has completed benchmarking studies.
- This is a great way to recognize and add to inclusive teaching practices.

### **Charge 2: Use of OMET Data.**

Use data from OMET for formative feedback, research, and publication. It is important to follow the right policies. Recommend how OMET data can be used more broadly.

### **Charge 3: Innovation in Education Awards: Proposal Review Process**

The provost asked the Council to continue its efforts related to administration of Innovation in Education Awards.

Mike informed the Council members that the Office of the Provost will send out the call for proposals for the Innovation in Education Awards in mid-late November and the deadline for application submission is February 17, 2023. This year, the proposals will call for specific attention on experiential learning, discipline-based projects, technology-enhanced learning, and student emotional well-being focusing on high enrollment courses to ensure students' sense of belonging. Mike gave a broad overview of the process and schedule.

- As a first step, the University Center for Teaching and Learning staff will review the proposals and conduct a feasibility assessment.
- Once the Teaching Center has completed its technical reviews, each Council member will be asked to review several proposals so that each proposal will be reviewed by multiple Council members.
- In mid-February, the Council will be contacted with which proposals they have been assigned to review and will be given access to InfoReview competition space containing the proposals and the Teaching Center's technical reviews.
- Council reviews must be completed between mid-February and early March. Joy Hart will compile the scores and send them to the council before the March meeting.
- At the late March Council meeting, all proposals will be discussed. Council members are encouraged to review all proposals, if possible, to participate in the discussions during the March meeting. During the meeting, Council will determine the set of proposals to recommend to the provost for funding. It is anticipated that the award winners will be notified by April 1.

## **Q&A and Comments**

### **Master Teacher Program**

- Help recognize faculty who are especially engaged in teaching; build networks with other master teachers who apply evidence-based teaching practices.
- Create a culture that is excited about teaching practices. Teaching is not viewed as second to research and clinical practices which are just as important, but we want to shift the focus on teaching. Give teaching more focused attention.
- Provide and help fill the gap to prepare teachers.
- Shift culture to focus on the importance of teaching skills which involves exceptional, professional development to help support and reinforce exceptional teaching skills.
- Use the Teaching Center's findings and use this Council as means to discuss the findings.

### **Innovation in Education Awards**

- Summer support – health sciences vs. humanities
  - ⇒ Justification
  - ⇒ Raise issues ahead of time and determine the best approach

## **Next Steps**

Mike advised the Council members to expect email requests to participate in a Doodle poll to help determine the meeting dates for November, January, February, and March. Mike also suggested that forming sub-committees might prove beneficial to achieve a targeted approach to the provost's charge.

## **Overview of the University Center for Teaching and Learning**

Mike Bridges presented a PowerPoint to the Council outlining the Teaching Center's major activities and updates. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

## **Next Meeting**

The process and timeline for reviewing the Innovation in Education Award proposals will be reviewed again at the next ACIE meeting. The next meeting of ACIE is scheduled for November – the exact date to be determined.

## **Adjournment**

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.