

SOS Steering Committee (SC) Agenda

Monday, September 26, 2016, (3:00-4:30 PM)

Earth Sciences Conference Room – SL118

Present: Yogesh Joglekar (President), Randall Roper (Secretary), Ben Boukai (Math), Snehasis Mukhopadhyay (Computer and Information Science), Rob Minto (Nick Manicke) (Chemistry and Chemical Biology), Lixin Wang (for Lin Li)(Earth Sciences), Simon Rhodes (Deans office), Dave Skalnik (Deans office), Doug Lees (Deans office), Jane Williams (Deans office)

Not present: Steve Boehm (Psychology), Jason Meyer (Biology), Ruihua Cheng (Physics)

1. Approval of agenda

Yogesh Joglekar (YJ) called the meeting to order and the agenda was approved at 3:10 pm.

2. Appoint a new Secretary (bylaws): Prof. Randall Roper

Randall Roper (RR) approved as secretary as elected

3. Introduction of Committee Members

Lin Li approved to serve as both the Earth Sciences representative and as past president

4. Comments by Dean Rhodes

Simon Rhodes (SR) reported that fall convocation was good and many of his comments were addressed there. Slides can be obtained if wanted. There were 765 degrees awarded in last cycle, including a record number of undergraduate degrees. All PhD degrees have been approved to be administered from Indianapolis. New Psychology ASOP PhD Degree has also been approved by IU. SR reported that Dave Skalnik (DS) is working with current graduate students that are in the process of choosing whether their degree is from Indianapolis or West Lafayette. If degree is from Indianapolis, we will pay graduation fee to encourage them to graduate from Indianapolis. SR emphasized that we must answer to the Purdue Grad School and have excellent programs and take the best students. If there is doubts about a PhD student, admit them to an MS program first. SR emphasized that we must follow best practices in recruiting, time to obtaining degree, and productivity.

This is a tread careful year for the budget. There are three department faculty searches: Math, Chemistry, and Physics.

Science on Tap speakers list is coming out—it is good to see a lot of the science community there. There is one speaker from every department. The first speaker is an Earth Science Alum and now is faculty at USI.

The IUPUI School of Education plans to split from Bloomington but may not do it. Ben Boukai (BB) thought that it would happen and they would be recruiting a Dean for 2018.

SR to go to the University of Newcastle next week. The University of Newcastle is a partner university that is a good fit. It is an urban university with several similar research strengths. Stem cells, physics, nanotechnology are common research foci. SR to try to build connections with our faculty and theirs. Our students may be able to take equivalent courses there. Liberal arts is trying to find equivalent courses. BB reported that hours on campus could affect IU programs where a student has to complete so many hours on our campus. Rajesh Sardar in Chemistry was able to identify a student to come here. SR reports that there are possibilities for graduate and undergraduate students from here. There are good matches in Science.

5. Report from Associate Deans

Doug Lees (DL) reported that next month will be fall fiscal analysis that will show the effects of income and banded tuition. The enrollment up 2.2% from being down 11% in June. BB reported that 75% of students were taking 15 credit hours. DL reported that total majors is up 200—now almost 3000 majors in SOS. SN asked about prediction for future enrollment. DL reported that more people will take more classes and we won't get the money for classes taken over 15 credit hours. Snehasis Mukhopadhyay (SM) said that campus is trying to absorb banded tuition so income level is comparable to last year. BB reports that there is a complication with banded tuition and the out of state regional enrollment agreements. DL mentioned that fiscal analysis is important at this time.

No reports from Dave Skalnik and Jane Williams.

6. New Business

a. Items from individual departments

BB questioned whether the ALEX math placement test was doing its job correctly. This could be a good tool yet it may also affect the DFW (D, F or withdrawal) rate in gateway courses. The Math Department would like to revisit this test from scratch. SR agreed, but indicated that campus may not agree. Need to present quantitative data to change course. There is no way to know if a certain student is taking the test. The Math Department has cutoffs yet students are under pressure to go to a higher level class. The Math Department may resolve this by giving quizzes the first couple of weeks of class. BB reported that there is non-proctored self-placement on this test and work needs to be done with people in assessment and administration. Jane Williams (JW) added that there was a problem with Chemistry students getting into the wrong class and after administering a placement test, the C101 enrollments went back into place. BB added that there is tension with the administration over accessibility, yet we are cheating good students because those who falsely pass the exam are taking seats in classes that good students need. SR stated that David Malik is Dean of Undergraduate students and may understand the ALEX test. Rob Minto (RM) brought up the problem with a non-proctored test. BB stated that because the validity of the placement is in question the student should be able to take the test in a proctored environment. SR mentioned that the Chemistry test is proctored. BB said the Chemistry test may be a good example and Math would like a proctored test.

7. Old Business (Introduction to outstanding issues for new members of the committee)

a. LGBT bathroom in LD/SL building.

SR reported that this was supported by the SOS and Staff council. There is apprehension about a multistall LGBT bathroom. SELB has an all gender bathroom yet it is also behind the animal barrier. BB also recommended a refreshing area. SR has talked to campus about this and will speak with them again.

b. Teaching evaluation for online courses.

BB asked how many online courses were in the department. JW reported 21-22 online courses in a semester. Psychology had a large number, Earth Science has a few as well. End of semester evaluations could be used to evaluate. For online courses, there are 11 questions. We could revisit this. SR wanted to know where the gaps in the evaluations were. JW said the online classes are mostly lecture and need to measure the overall satisfaction with the instructor. BB said that there is a spectrum of online courses and one instrument may not measure all. JW wondered how we would use this data. Would we use it for P&T documents? SR added that when a student takes a course they get a survey. Do we have any tenure track faculty that exclusively teach online? JW reported that we do not. SM asked about peer evaluation of online hybrid courses. What if each instructor developed instrument to evaluate along with the chair? BB thought there would be very little comparison that would be done between courses with this type of evaluation. SR said that peer evaluation is based on lecture courses. BB added that it would be very difficult to assess online and lecture courses in the same way. SR said that Margie Ferguson addressed IU online and reported that Purdue does not deliver much course content

online. BB said that some disciplines are better at online delivery than others and evaluation would have to take that into account.

c. Administrative evaluations.

The questions are whether these should be summarized or verbatim comments that go back to the administration and should the summary comments be shared with all of the faculty. SR said we are the only school on campus that give results to the faculty. BB stated that it is like a board of review—a single faculty member can't do much but if a group of faculty come together in the case where a department chair affects more than one individual. Yet, ultimately, the chair serves at the pleasure of the Dean. SR said reviews can be positive and can change people yet wariness comes from historic context where unfounded comments were made. BB added that these reviews mostly apply to the chair.

8. Set Meeting Time for Fall Semester (Below are original times, but may need to change start times, and December date)

Steering committee (Mondays)

October 17th, 3:00 – 4:30 PM (DaveS)

November 7th, 3:00-4:30 PM (DSRhodes)

December 5th, 3:00-4:30 PM (JRW)

Fall Faculty Assembly (?)

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.