Minutes of the Spring 2012 School of Science Faculty Assembly
Friday, April 6, 2012
Science Building, Room LD 010

Faculty Present

Biology: Bard, Martin; Blazer-Yost, Bonnie; Li, Jiliang; Marrs, Kathleen (Associate Dean); Kusmierczyk, Andrew; Lees, N. Doug (Associate Dean); Picard, Christine; Randall, Steve; Rhodes, Simon (Dean); Skalnik, David (Associate Dean); Stocum, David; Watson, John C. (President of the Faculty); Yost, Robert;

Chemistry & Chemical Biology: Anliker, Keith; McLeish, Michael; Minto, Robert; Muhoberac, Barry;

Computer & Information Science: Fang, Shiaofen; Liang, Yao; Mukhopadhyay, Snehasis (Secretary of the Faculty); Raje, Rajeev; Tuceryan, Mihran (Past-President of the Faculty); Zheng, Jiangyu;

Earth Sciences: Mandernack, Kevin;

Mathematical Sciences: Geller, William; Misiurewicz, Michal; Shen, Zhongmin; Tarasov, Vitaly;

Psychology: Boehm, Steve; McGrew, John; Rand, Kevin; Salyers, Michelle;

1. President John Watson called the assembly to order at 9:03 a.m. He asked if there was motion to accept the agenda. It was so moved, seconded, and the agenda was unanimously approved.

2. Watson asked if there was motion to accept the minutes of the last Fall Faculty Assembly (November 11, 2011). It was so moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

3. Deans’ Reports: Dean Rhodes informed the faculty that several SOS faculty members and students recently were recognized by the campus. Biology faculty Steve Randall received the Center for Research and Learning Mentorship award, Earth Sciences faculty Andy Barth was named a Chancellor’s Professor, Leslie Ashburn-Nardo (Psychology faculty) received the Chancellor’s Diversity Scholar award, and Anna Malkova (Biology faculty) received the Research Trailblazer award. Further, 34 of the IUPUI Top 100 students selected were from SOS, and 6 of the 20 IUPUI students selected for Civic Engagement awards were from SOS. Dean Rhodes also stated that Dr. Nigel Richards from University of Florida will join the school as the Chair of the Chemistry and Chemical Biology department. He is an analytical/computational (bio)chemist who has won teaching awards. Eli Lilly and Company is interested in research collaborations with him. He is also well known in the IU Cancer Center and the School of Medicine’s Biochemistry department and this will help build research collaborations between SOS and the rest of the campus. Dean Rhodes informed the faculty that the final report from the Earth Sciences departmental review has been submitted. Mathematics and Psychology departments will be next to be reviewed, and eventually all departments will be reviewed. Dean Rhodes also initiated a Diversity Council composed of SOS staff, faculty, and students. He mentioned the ground-breaking ceremony of the new Science and Engineering Laboratory Building (SELB), commenting that it brought good press for SOS. He informed the faculty that he will initiate a quick strategic planning process to identify short and medium term goals and action items for the SOS. The Steering Committee, department chairs, the staff council, and the associate deans will be involved in this process. Pointing out that it was the budget week, he asked Associate Dean Lees to comment on the budget.

• Associate Dean Lees started by informing the faculty that the SELB building is a $25 million project, out of which $20 million is for the building itself. This will be funded by dollars displaced by grant indirect cost recovery (ICR). Indiana University President McRobbie has provided $5 million from the Angel sale credited to E&T and the SOS has provided $3 million in cash; the rest ($17 million) will be covered through the sale of 20-year bonds. The bonds were sold in February at a very favorable rate of just over 3%. The annual debt service payment will be $1,145,000, out of which the campus will pay $1 million. Of the remaining $145,000, SOS will pay 77% and School of Engineering and Technology (SOET) will pay 23%. The annual operating costs of ~$1 million will also be split 77%/23% between SOS and SOET. The R&R depreciation...
cost will be $600,000/year for 40 years, once again split 77%/23% between SOS and SOET. As costs are now estimated the SOS will altogether have to pay $1.5 -1.7 million/year.

Associate Dean Lees continued that SOS budget for 2012-2013 year will be $1.5 million smaller than last year’s. State appropriation will be exactly the same. Enrollment is predicted to be down a little; tuition is up 2.5%, but the university-announced summer tuition discount will reduce tuition income. ICR income will go up between $100,000 and $200,000. Assessments are up $1.5 million. SOS will also pay into the Chancellor’s reallocation funds at ~$370,000 more than last year. Departmental budgets will not be affected by the overall diminished budget and graduate student support will not be reduced. There is a 1.5% raise allocated for faculty and all staff. Schools can add another 0.7% but that would not be available for one class of staff (non-exempt). Thus, the School will assign raises at the 1.5% level for all groups and, in consultation with chairs where indicated, will make adjustments for a small number of key individual faculty and exempt staff. Raises will be based on merit per IU policy.

SOS priority enrollment is down 5.3% relative to the same point last year. If it holds, our income will be down by $2.5 million.

- Associate Dean Marrs presented several Powerpoint slides on the transferable core curriculum at IUPUI. Since October, 2011, the campus has been discussing core curriculum to meet state standards. A task force provided an overview and came up with a model. Associate Deans Marrs and Watts are members of that task force. These standards apply not only to IUPUI students, but also to students transferring to IUPUI. There was a Town Hall Meeting on this topic and the information on this core curriculum is available at gened.iupui.edu. Two bills have recently been passed by Indiana Senate and House expanding the performance based funding by state into next biennium. All institutions must have a transferable statewide general education core of 30 credit hours. The IUPUI requirements will be presented to Indiana Commission of Higher Education (ICHE) in December, 2012. No new degrees requiring more than 120 credit hours will be granted. There may be some exceptions if there is an accreditation requirement. The current common core areas are: Communication (6 credit hours), Mathematics/Analytical Reasoning (6 credit hours), Science (6 credit hours), Arts and Humanities (9 credit hours), and Social Science and Cultural Understanding (3 credit hours). Associate Dean Marrs also informed that, while our enrollments are leveling off, our school is doing well with respect to number of degrees awarded, and retention; however, we are not doing as well as Indiana University, Bloomington. Misiurewicz asked if improving these numbers mean that we will have to lower our standards. Associate Dean Marrs answered that no one is recommending that course of action, but we need to improve the system and the process. Blazer-Yost asked that since IUPUI students have different profile from IUB students, whether we should compare students working the same number of hours per week. Associate Dean Marrs pointed out that the state will reward for improving these rates, not based on existing numbers. Randall asked if there was any discussion about a competency examination, given that the core courses can be taken at many different institutions. Associate Dean Marrs answered in the negative.

- Associate Dean Skalnik reported that there was a workshop for CAREER Awards later in the day. He also informed everyone that April 16 is the deadline for Purdue Research Foundation Travel and Research Grant proposals. With respect to research funding, our school is ranked second in the campus behind the School of Medicine. Campus research funding is down 0.5%, while our school’s research funding is up 3.9%. Our grant success hit rate is 34% total and 20% for new grants; these numbers are quite good. He also said that the SOS Graduate Education Committee has approved an IU Ph.D. program for Biology and Chemistry and Chemical Biology departments. Randall asked if the departmental faculty need to be approved as IU Graduate Faculty to take part in the IU Ph.D. Associate Dean Skalnik replied that IU faculty at all campuses are IU Graduate Faculty and they can be members of Ph.D. committees, but they need to apply to chair such committees. This is true for all IU campuses. Geller asked about the impetus of the switch from Purdue to IU degrees. Associate Dean Skalnik answered that it was
motivated by a need for program independence. Purdue declined requests from IUPUI to grant Ph.D.s whose degree certificates will state that the work done is at Indianapolis.

4. President Watson first updated the faculty on several previous issues. The school promotion and tenure guidelines have been successfully updated, based on faculty electronic vote. The healthcare premium resolution that was passed by Steering Committee was forwarded to University Faculty Council (UFC). This was adopted unchanged by UFC and forwarded to IU President MacRobbie. President Watson noted that the Steering Committee is finalizing the surveys needed for faculty review of the Dean’s administration. The online reviews will be conducted in the near future. President Watson reminded the Assembly that the mechanism for selecting departmental representatives to the standing academic committees of the Faculty is to be determined by the voting faculty. In this regard, the Steering Committee unanimously approved a resolution stating that “Departmental representatives to the Steering Committee should be elected by the voting faculty of the respective department.” The Steering Committee, at the suggestion of Dean Rhodes, passed two resolutions concerning student course evaluations. The first states that all course sections in the school should have formal student feedback, and the second states that the Steering Committee will initiate a review of the student satisfaction survey forms. This review is underway.

5. President Watson reported that the Psychology department representative, Dr. John McGrew, to the Steering Committee will need to rotate off to allow for a new representative.

6. President Watson also asked for nominations for the Faculty Secretary/President-Elect post which needs to be elected, as the current secretary Mukhopadhyay will become president and President Watson will become past-president according to the by-laws. Randall asked if there is a compensation for the position. Dean Rhodes answered that he will honor the past precedent for providing some funds for professional development to the President.

7. President Watson brought 5 items for discussion to the faculty in preparation to electronic voting, related to proposed changes to school by-laws. These were all communicated to the faculty earlier by e-mail and are itemized as follows:

(i) Broadening definition of faculty and voting faculty, and including lecturers, senior lecturers, and clinical faculty as voting faculty
(ii) Requiring that the Steering Committee members be tenured faculty
(iii) Given item (i) above, modifying the eligibility definition for memberships to all school committees
(iv) Simplifying the rules and procedures for administrative reviews of deans and chairs
(v) Transferring selected duties of the Nominations and Awards Committees to the Steering Committee, respecting the current practice

Misiurewicz asked for the reason why lecturers are treated differently from research rank faculty with respect to granting voting rights. President Watson replied that the compromise reached in the Steering Committee was to distinguish opportunistic, soft money, appointments from those by search committees and vetting by the faculty. Blazer-Yost asked if there was a school policy on probationary period for lecturers. Dean Rhodes answered that often lecturers are appointed for 1-3 years, senior lecturers for a longer term, and they all are reviewed annually for re-appointment. Fang asked if there was a limitation on the items to which these extended voting rights apply. President Watson answered that there were restrictions on committee memberships, but not on general voting. He reminded that these new policies apply at the school level, and the departments are free to follow any other policy for departmental issues. Considerable discussion followed on each of the five items.
A voice vote by the faculty present at the assembly indicated a majority agreement on all 5 items. President Watson will set up an electronic faculty vote on all these items.

8. Motion to adjourn was approved at 10:45 a.m.