Steering Committee Minutes – August 20, 2009

Voting Members: Jyoti Sarkar (President), Bart Ng (Dean), Xianzhong Wang (Bio), Barry Muhoberac (Chem), Snehasis Mukhopadhyay (CIS), Pierre Jacinthe (Earth Sc), Ricardo Decca (Phys), John McGrew (Psych), Will Geller (Math),

Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members: Jim Murphy (Associate Dean), Jane Williams (Past President), Mihran Tuceryan (Secretary), Jeff Watt (Associate Dean), Kathleen Marrs (Associate Dean)

1. President Sarkar called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
2. Snehasis Mukhopadhyay moved and Ricardo Decca seconded to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.
3. Ricardo Decca moved to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2009 meeting and Xianzhong Wang seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. President Sarkar gave a brief summary of the functioning of the Steering Committee. As part of this discussion Dean Ng suggested that the departments should consider continuity on the committee when they appoint members. He suggested considering the possibility of increasing the member terms from two years now to possibly three years. SC meetings are set to be held on the second Friday of every month from 9-11am in the Computer Science conference room (SL280) for the academic year 2009-2010.
5. Dean Ng went over the state of the School of Science (SOS) using the materials from the chairs retreat.
   a. He gave an overview of the budget of the school. 2008-2009 closing cash position is $3.9M after reversions. He said the schools financial state is in very good shape.
   b. Currently, we have solved the start-up problem and he said he has worked in a line-item in the budget for start-up funds.
   c. The 2009-2010 budget has the state appropriations down. Income from tuition and fees is up. Dean Ng's budget plan assumes the state appropriations will keep going down and plans to be self-sufficient. Tuition and fee income and ICR should make the school self-sufficient. McGrew asked if the increase in this income can be taken away by university assessment. Dean replied the assessment is based on credit hours. So, if credit hours go up, assessment will also increase.
   d. Dean Ng said we were paying assessment for space that we did not have. This has now been resolved.
   e. 20% of ICR goes to university and 80% comes back to school. Dean Ng said it is important to claim our part of ICR in collaborative proposals. Faculty need to inform the dean's office of collaborative grant proposals and the system is set up to automatically recover school's fair share of the ICR.
6. Dean Ng went over the strategic plan for the school. The strategic plan is supposed to protect school's assets and resources.
   a. The dean pointed out that good students are coming to IUPUI.
   b. Jeff Watt pointed out that IUPUI offers better service learning support for students who want to go to professional schools.
   c. The dean announced that his office has been reorganized. Kathleen Marrs will be acting associate dean for student academic affairs. An office of student services will be created. Jeff Watt will be acting associate dean leading the office of student services. The office will be funded from the student services fee paid by
the students who are science majors. Undergraduate student council was very supportive.

d. Dean's office will also focus on development efforts. The dean pointed out that there were good ideas in the past, but there was no structure or resources to follow up on them. Now there are resources put in place to make this successful. The dean mentioned having lunch with two IUPUI alumni in recent days who seem to have had a positive experience at IUPUI and are willing to help the school. He requested that departments identify and send him information about such alumni to further develop such relations. Will Geller asked if the development will be able to pay for itself. The dean said eventually yes.

e. Dean Ng also talked about the MLC Building project. He has included a $500K into the budget to fund the debt for the building. He said the Chancellor is now behind the building. The money is there, but it is a question of timing and approval. One possibility is to use ICR money to start the building to ensure that the money is coming from non-state sources.

f. Dean Ng said "we should have the ambitions to match our new-found resources."

g. Barry Mulhoberac asked about graduate student recruitment. The dean said he has cleaned up the tuition waiver process. The departments are ultimately responsible for getting the graduate students. He said we need to make offers early if we want to get the good students. For the offers made to graduate students, the dean guarantees the money regardless of the RIF funding. He suggested the students be made offers for more than 1 year.

h. Dean Ng also talked about hiring faculty. Because the school now has the money, he suggests hiring faculty aggressively. The dean anticipates about 28.5 new faculty to be hired over next several years. For short term filling of positions, he will consider hiring of postdocs. Kathleen Marrs also pointed out that the Howard Hughes grant will have postdocs included.

7. President Sarkar will follow up with Williams to find out any outstanding old businesses from the previous year.

8. The SC authorized Sarkar to invite Ben Boukai to our September 11 meeting. He will share with us his experience on the university budgetary affairs committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM