Steering Committee Minutes – November 13, 2009

**Voting Members:** Jyoti Sarkar (President), Bart Ng (Dean), Teri Belecky-Adams for 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:** James Murphy (Associate Dean), Kathleen Marrs (Associate Dean), Jane Williams (Past President), Mihran Tuceryan (Secretary)

1. President Sarkar called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.
2. The agenda was approved unanimously.
3. The minutes of the October 9, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously. The minutes of the meeting Steering Committee members had with Dean Uday Sukhatme on Nov 2, 2009 was also approved unanimously.
4. Dean Ng went over the following items:
   - Update on the new lab building: Dean Ng announced that we get our building. The building will be constructed in two phases with $20M for the first phase. The building space will be 80% research space and 20% for other purposes. Dean Ng said he might have another $2M above and beyond the debt servicing amount that he could use from the SOS budget.
     He pointed out that School of Engineering has been more aggressive in requesting space and that SOS has to negotiate with them. He said our needs are more urgent than theirs and it will be a challenge. We need to make sure that every space in the new building is well designed. Biology, Chemistry, and Psychology have capacity issues. Gabriel Filipelli is also in the loop because of centers.
   - Question (Pierre Jacinthe): What is on the table for funding?
     Answer: Asking for state funding is not fruitful. IU Foundation funding will be used. BRTC is a demonstration of existence that such funding can work. Request was sent (Mary Francis McCord). He said IU has best credit rating. Legal viewpoint was also looked at. We are good enough and we can pay for the maintenance. The new building will de-emphasize classroom/teaching use.
   - Q (Barry): How delicate is the Engineering situation?
     A: Dean Ng doesn’t worry much about that. He said he will send latest building plans to the SC. The building will have 70,000 sq. ft of reconfigurable space total. He pointed out that to cut costs, we need to have complete design for the building and then build. The design will depend on where the building will be located.
   - Q (Geller): Math space is not in the building. Will space open up for math in the LD building?
     A: Yes. Current dean’s office area can be given to Math department without much modification. Dean Ng pointed out that plans have been made for what to do with the vacated space. The only plan not made is the vivarium. In Phase I: vivarium will be vacated. Hardly anything else will be vacated.
   - Q: How large will the new vivarium be?
     A: Dean Ng pointed out that we need to design the building to that space allocation is dynamic. He said all labs need to be designed as open space and people will buy
space from it. The dynamically allocated lab space will cut costs down because once funding runs out that space can be reallocated to some other researcher. This will optimize the space utilization. Dean Ng pointed out that he told Dean Oner Yurtseven he’s willing to divide space a priori as long as a thorough study is made of space needs.

- On the hiring front, Dean Ng pointed out that there are plans to hire many faculty. This year’s goal would be to hire 12 people and hire similar number next year. He pointed out that because of the economy, this is the best time to recruit senior people. Currently hiring plans are ongoing in the departments of
  - Chemistry: extraordinarily good people being recruited. There is good reason to believe that a full professor will be hired.
  - Biology: chair search is going on; will hire 4-5 faculty.
  - Math: with biostatistics and core areas to bridge people in applied math.
  - Psychology: there is currently ongoing discussion for hiring plans.
  - Geology: looking for chair.
  - Physics: currently dormant (maybe next year they can hire)
  - Computer Science: authorized for search.

Dean Ng said he told chairs not to hold back on hiring anymore. He also pointed out that now he can talk to Dean Brater about borrowing space once the MLB building plans are firmed up.

- New parking garage construction to the north of the IT building will be problematic. We are expecting enrollments to go up again. Spring biology enrollments are ahead. The garage will be finished for Fall 2010 semester.

5. Associate Dean Marrs material: There will be course development grant for faculty. There could be supplements. Windows on science courses were designed for a different time when student demography was different. Honors college is coming online. We need courses to meet good students’ expectations. Can we do better with our curriculum? Maybe tweak existing courses. How can we package the mentoring/tutoring? If we can put them in UColl it will ease the pressure on SOS. UColl was opened at a different time. What happens when its dean retires? We need to get our foot in to get space in UColl.

6. Dean Murphy talked about the Core facilities proposals. He said the committee met yesterday (Thursday, Nov 12). Six proposals were evaluated by the committee based on merit. The criteria considered were on # of people and chance to generate external funding. Chose two types of evaluation: rating and ranking. The results for the two of them were consistent. Recommendations were sent to Dean Ng. Two other tasks need to be performed:
   - Evaluate the current equipment.
   - Define what “core” is in the SOS.

The ultimate goal is to get all of this information on the SOS web site. Dean Ng pointed out that this is critical when recruiting new faculty. Start up packages are individualized. Dean Murphy asked for suggestions to add to the web site. Next year SOS will hopefully have core facilities funding again.

7. Dean Ng gave some numbers for costs of various types of space. Cost of a assignable space for teaching lab is approximately $500/sq. ft, for research lab is $500/sq ft, for
classroom is ≈ $350/sq ft, and for vivarium is ≈ $750/sq ft. He said the building gross costs about $328/sq foot. The building has >40% or ≈50% assignable space.

8. Jyoti will follow up on the petition letter sent to Pres. McRobbie and Chancellor Bantz regarding the extension of Dean Uday Sukhatme’s tenure.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 AM