Steering Committee Minutes – December 11, 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: James Murphy (Associate Dean), Mihran Tuceryan (Secretary)

1. President Sarkar called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.
2. President Sarkar announced that EVC Sukhatme will meet with the SC on January 15, 9:00–9:55AM to discuss strategies for our new dean search. SC members should give some thoughts as to which campus deans are suitable for chairing the search committee, which should be formed and announced by Mid-March.
3. The agenda was approved unanimously.
4. The minutes of the November 13, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.
5. Dean Ng went over the following items:

   Budget
   Dean Ng passed out budget sheets and updated on the upcoming budget cuts due to the state cut. The State of Indiana is cutting $154M from higher education. 2x6%=12% total over the next 2 years. SOS share of this cut is 2x$300K over the two years (assuming cuts are fair from the university level). Tuition income increase according to the September 2009 enrollment numbers is very healthy. Program fees pay for student services. ICR income has also increased. SOS will get significantly more RIF money this year. Next year will be a little less. Dean Ng announced that SOS gets the highest amount of RIF money at IUPUI. Tech fees do not come back to us anymore. This year SOS will get $250K for the transition. The dean has put aside money for the building budget. The start-up funds are also in good shape.

   Technology fee issues
   When first instituted, technology fee was meant to be for information technology. Over time, it was used to support any technology. Currently, many PA positions are funded by the technology fee. Tech fee was used to support technology in the labs, etc. Now that the tech fee is going away, the SOS needs to straighten out the existing mess. Currently, 2-3 people in SOS are affected. The SOS needs to define what the role of technology committee should be. Dean Ng said SOS needs to think about what IT means to SOS.
   i. We need to be concerned about IT infrastructure.
   ii. Video and tele-conferencing infrastructure that can be useful for everyone in the SOS.
   iii. Bandwidth in the SL and LD buildings needs to be improved and upgraded.
   Dean Ng suggested that these are the kinds of things UITS can provide SOS with the technology fee in addition to advising about and testing IT infrastructure. We need to help reorganize and restructure UITS to set up SOS and departmental liaisons.
He pointed out that at the end of this year, the escrow for lab fees will be about $200K.
LCR is still going on with faculty computers.
He also said that UITS has agreed to let old (replaced) computers from LCR go to labs.

The new Lab Building (SERC)
The name is officially Science–Engineering Research Complex (SERC).
We have all the space requests for phase 1 roughly approved by all the chairs and deans. The costs estimate is \( \approx \$24M \).
Lab space request specs ready.
By mid-January, updated version of project description should be ready for February trustees meeting.

Dean Ng described the difference between Design-Bid-Build (DBB) vs. Design-Build (DB) processes. The DBB is a lengthier and more involved process. He said the BRTC was built using DB process and is a less costly process as well. BRTC was built in 18 months and the average cost is approximately $182/sq-ft. Dean Ng is pushing for DB process for the SERC building.

6. There was an update about all the faculty searches going on in the school. All searches are proceeding well. Chemistry department is moving faster than last year. Biology, CS searches are proceeding. Earth Science has identified 6 applicants. Forensic Biology has invited 3 applicants (out of 16) for interview. Math is happy with the biostat applicants. Math is also searching for applied math faculty. Candidates for both tracks will be called for interviews in January. In Psychology, a senior appointment is to replace Gary Bond. There is possibility for another position in Psychology in the future, but that depends on the space issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 AM