Steering Committee Minutes – February 12, 2010

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), William Geller (Math)

Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members: Jane Williams (Past President), Mihran Tuceryan (Secretary)

Guest: Prof. Benzion Boukai

1. President Sarkar called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.
2. The agenda was approved unanimously.
3. The minutes of the December 11, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.
4. Dean Ng went over the following items:
   • SERC building financing:
     i. Dean Ng stated that there is still resistance to Design-Build (DB) process for the SERC building. Nonetheless, he will continue to advocate for it.
     ii. The financing of the building is $25M for phase 1 (SERC 1), subject to the Board of Trustees’ approval. This includes an $8M down payment. President McRobbie’s office has contributed $5M. Dean Ng mentioned that it appears that the Chancellor’s office has credited the entire $5M to the School of Engineering. The SOS must provide the remaining $3M down payment.
     iii. Dean Ng stated that the school’s finances are strong to provide this down payment, but there are some constraints on documenting where the down payment money is coming from. The School must demonstrate that not a penny of this amount comes from the general funds, rather it comes from ICR. He mentioned that if any of the money comes from general funds, then the state will impose additional constraints. Funding from ICR is a doable proposition: BRTC building is a model of such a process. Furthermore, the school must also document that the ongoing maintenance costs of the building will be paid from ICR forever. The maintenance costs are calculated by multiplying the total assignable area for the SOS (about 50,000 ASF) by roughly $25.20/sq ft per year.
     iv. Dean Ng said that we have $1M from last year’s ICR, $1M from this year’s ICR, but for the third $1M we will need help from the University’s ICR money.
     v. Annual debt service for the building is $1.3M/yr (if $17M is borrowed over 20 years). Of this, the campus pays $1M. Dean Ng suggested that one way the university can show evenhandedness toward the SOS is by crediting this $1M/yr debt payment to the SOS.
   • Other topics mentioned by Dean Ng: Direct admits to the SOS went up by 34%, mainly because the state waived the application fees for high school students. The yield is still to be realized. The campus admits also increased, and Dean Ng
suggested this may be due to increasing SOS admits. He said we are getting good
students applying to us who wouldn’t normally consider applying to IUPUI/SOS.

5. President Sarkar talked about planning the Spring SOS Faculty assembly. The proposed
date is Friday, April 2, 2009, 9–11AM. Suggestions for guest speakers included
Chancellor Bantz to talk about the SERC building and the SOS dean search and EVC
Sukhatme to talk about the SOS dean search. Dean Ng suggested we can have the dean
search as a theme for the assembly, and may also invite Dean Scott Evenbeck (who will
chair the SOS dean search committee) to the meeting.

6. President Sarkar also asked people to nominate someone for Faculty Secretary for next
year. He pointed out that this is a 3 year commitment to serve the school, and that there is
a small incentive as Dean Ng has promised $5K to the president as professional
development money. He also suggested that perhaps Dean Ng can make this offer
permanent so that it doesn’t get lost when a new dean takes office.

7. Past president Jane Williams suggested that we need to think about administrative
reviews for department chairs and deans who need to be reviewed this year.

8. At 10:25 AM Prof. Boukai came to the meeting to give us an update on his budgetary
affairs related presentation to the School of Liberal Arts. He also proposed that the
School may think about forming an informal “think-tank” in order to brainstorm whether
it is a good idea to have the schools of science and liberal arts form a college of arts and
sciences in the future. Dean Ng cautioned that we need to go on this issue very slowly,
and have a good strategy on how to utilize the University College better. He suggested
that if there is to be any discussion, the SOS needs to focus solely on the question of
whether University College should transfer some of its student support resources to
Science and SLA given the changing demographics and needs of students currently
matriculating at IUPUI.

9. President Sarkar mentioned that we need to submit nominations for a Purdue School
representative to the IU Faculty council.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM