Steering Committee Minutes – March 12, 2010

Voting Members: Jyoti Sarkar (President), Xianzhong Wang (Bio), Barry Muhoberac (Chem), Snehasis Mukhopadhyay (CIS), Pierre Jacinthe (Earth Sc), Horia Petrache (Phys), John McGrew (Psych), William Geller (Math)

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

1. President Sarkar called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.
2. The agenda was approved unanimously.
3. The minutes of the February 12, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.
4. President Sarkar opened discussion on nominations for the position of secretary for next year. The qualifications mentioned were that the person should be tenured. Someone with previous steering committee experience is to be preferred but is not required. SC members are going to actively seek candidates from their respective departments.
5. President Sarkar opened discussion for detailed agenda items for the Spring SOS Faculty Assembly on April 2, 2010. He mentioned that he invited Chancellor Bantz, Executive Vice Chancellor Sukhatme, and Dean Evenbeck to talk about the upcoming dean search for the School of Science. Chancellor Bantz and EVC Sukhatme cannot make it to the meeting due to scheduling conflicts. President Sarkar will ask Dean Evenbeck to attend the Faculty Assembly to brief the faculty about the plans for the dean search. The details of the agenda for the assembly was then set. There was a discussion about whether press representatives from the student newspapers as well as from the Indianapolis Star should be invited to the assembly. Also whether someone from the University Faculty Council should be invited. President Sarkar will invite a student newspaper representative to the assembly. The Indianapolis Star will be put on hold until there is more discussion about it.
6. The topic of whether there should be informal discussions about the possible merger with School of Liberal Arts and SOS was brought up by President Sarkar. After a lot of discussions, it was decided that President Sarkar will contact a member of SLA executive committee to work out some issues about the subject before such discussion begin.
7. Past president Jane Williams briefed the committee that she has started setting up the administrative reviews mechanics. She has also asked the deans to provide written summary statements outlining their responsibilities and accomplishments. The deans and chairpersons whose reviews are optional according to the bylaws were asked if they want to be reviewed anyway. The responses are still not in. It was also decided that the new secretary learn the process of administering these reviews so that in the future this burden is shared.
8. Past President Jane Williams announced that Dean Ng is creating career services positions. There are two positions being created: marketing and some other position. It was pointed out that the Steering Committee has not discussed this and that we should have some input into it.
9. President Sarkar mentioned that Purdue School graduate faculty representatives for the IU Faculty council voting results are not yet known.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM