School of Science Steering Committee Minutes
March 9, 2011

Voting Members present: Mihran Tuceryan (President), Bart Ng (Dean of the School of Science), Teri Belecky-Adams (Biology), Barry Muhoberac (Chemistry and Chemical Biology), Yao Liang (Computer and Information Science), Pierre-Andre Jacinthe (Earth Sciences), Vitaly Tarasov (Mathematical Sciences), Ricardo Decca (Physics, substituting for Stephen Wassall), John McGrew (Psychology)

Non-Voting Members present: David Skalnik (Associate Dean), Jeff Watt (Associate Dean), Jyoti Sarkar (Past President), John Watson (Secretary)

1. President Mihran Tuceryan called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.
2. The agenda was adopted unanimously (see page 3).
3. President Tuceryan asked for comments on the minutes of the February 9, 2011 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. President Tuceryan turned the floor over to Dean Bart Ng for comments.
   • Ng asked Skalnik for comments, who in turn asked Ng if the research incentive plan would be based % effort. Ng responded that the details were not clearly defined yet, but that incentives should be based on an academic year basis. Skalnik stated that the job description had been written for a new staff position, Executive Director for Graduate Education and Research.
   • Ng presented an analysis of the recommended state appropriations for the state universities that are currently pending with the state legislature. The recommendation is based on the new ICHE system for reallocation of funds based on performance drivers. Approximately 5% of the higher education budget would be pooled and for reallocation based on the ICHE formula. Using this formula, IUPUI funding would increase by approx. $4.1M based on the increased number of degrees awarded, and additional increase of $0.96M based on research funding increases.
   • Ng summarized analyses of campus funding and assessment by the RPC. Current assessments are based on the “3 driver model,” an amalgam of personnel, space, and enrollment. A new “consumption model” is being considered. Under the consumption model, SOS assessments would increase by $4.9M. The RPC analyzed the costs per 12 credit hours for campus units, and compared these figures with those of similar units at peer institutions. Only 3 of the schools analyzed had mean costs below that of our peers, with the SOS being one of them. A separate analysis of the distribution of the state allocation was presented. Based on credit hours, the SOS should receive $12.8M but actually receives ~$6M. Weighting the allocation based on the cost per credit hour would increase SOS funding by ~$3M. Several schools would be negatively impacted if these alternate allocation methods are adopted.
   • Ng summarized the basic features of an early retirement plan being developed by IU. An announcement is expected soon from the University.
5. Problems with the enrollment of Ph.D. students in M.S. research (698). Tuceryan described the problems his department (CIS) is experiencing with their Computer Science department at West Lafayette and the graduate school with regard to 698. In essence, the Purdue Graduate School is no longer allowing 698 credits to count toward the Ph.D.
Other Steering Committee members confirmed that their departments were experiencing similar issues. Tuceryan also explained that CIS is being asked to provide reports and written statements regarding the progress made by students who registered in 698 as part of their Ph.D. exploration in research. The reports are currently being requested by the Computer Science Department at Purdue WL, even from Ph.D. students who successfully defended and deposited an M.S. thesis in the past. It is not clear what the reason is for these requested reports. Considerable discussion followed concerning the “698 issue”, but there was general agreement that the “698 issue” will continue because there are several current Ph.D. students with significant numbers of credits in 698. Skalnik indicated that he would check into this.

6. Spring Faculty Assembly. Tuceryan indicated that it was time to schedule the spring Faculty Assembly. He noted that last year’s was April 2. He proposed April 1 and April 8, both Fridays. Since April 8 is Research Day on campus, it was agreed that the Assembly would be on April 1. Jacinthe asked if this would conflict with a previously scheduled grant workshop. Tuceryan asked for items for the agenda. McGrew suggested inviting the Dean of the Purdue Graduate School. Watson suggested discussion of the interim changes to the SOS Promotion and Tenure Document that were put into place in the fall semester. Liang suggested a discussion of the Dean search and the transition to the new Dean.

7. Nominations for SOS Secretary, Faculty Council representative, and Purdue Faculty Senate representative. Tuceryan explained that nominees were required for SOS Secretary/President-Elect and to replace Sarkar as one of our three representatives on the Faculty Council. Since it was not clear whether it was time to replace our representative on the Purdue Faculty, Tuceryan said he would check into the matter. He asked that Steering Committee forward the names of potential nominees by March 11.

8. Administrative reviews. Tuceryan mentioned that it may be time to review SOS administrators, but noted that several of them have been in office too short a time to necessitate a review. He indicated that he will consult the Bylaws and past Minutes if needed to determine whether comprehensive reviews are needed at this time.

9. Dean search. Tuceryan asked if there was news regarding the Dean search. Ng indicated that he believes that negotiations will be concluded soon.

10. Department bylaws. Watson asked what departments had written Bylaws, indicating that he was already in possession of the Bylaws for Math and CIS. He requested any additional Bylaws, if they exist.


13. President Tuceryan adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.
School of Science Steering Committee Meeting

February 9, 2011, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Biology Conference Room, SL 306C

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of January 12, 2011 meeting
3. Dean’s remarks on the budget
4. Old business
5. New business