School of Science Steering Committee Minutes
September 2, 2011

Voting Members present: John Watson (President), Simon Rhodes (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), Stephen Wassall (Physics), John McGrew (Psychology)

Non-Voting Members present: David Skalnik (Associate Dean), Kathy Marrs (Associate Dean), N. Douglas Lees (Associate Dean), Mihran Tuceryan (Past President), Snehasis Mukhopadhyay (Secretary)

1. President John Watson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
2. The agenda was adopted unanimously (see page 4).
3. President Watson asked for comments on the minutes of the May 4, 2011 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. President Watson briefly went over the role of the Steering Committee as specified in the School of Science Constitution and Bylaws.
5. President Watson turned the floor over to Dean Rhodes. Dean Rhodes informed the committee that the design of the new building (the SELB building) has been approved by the Trustees. The builder and the amount of space are still unknown. The building is a good thing, but it does not completely solve the space issue for us. This semester we will look more into the space issue taking into account the need for teaching and space for new faculty. Dean Rhodes wants to develop an organized strategy for mentorship for faculty throughout an academic career, from their arrival to their retirement. Executive Vice Chancellor Uday Sukhatme has new initiatives for Associate Professors. Investments in people and their careers are very important for an academic unit. Dean Rhodes briefly talked about the New Academic Directions Report. IU President Michael McRobbie and the Trustees want this to be discussed in each campus. There are three immediate potential impacts for School of Science: (i) Computer Science and School of Informatics issue, (ii) Liberal Arts and Science issue, and (iii) Consolidated Health “campus” issue. Already working groups/committees have been formed to look into each of the issues. Dean Rhodes and Computer Science Chair Shiaofen Fang are in the Computer Science/Informatics working group; Associate Dean Kathy Marrs, Biology Chair Simon Atkinson, and University College Dean Kathy Johnson are in the Science/Liberal Arts working group. We need to be careful so that all these re-organization discussions are not unsettling to new faculty. Dean Rhodes does not think it should be and the discussions may indeed have a positive impact. We need to have open conversations, thereby dispelling rumors. The School of Science needs to be seen as a stable, data-driven unit. Dean Rhodes also mentioned that at the beginning of the year, only 90% of the budget was given to each department as insurance against a large drop in enrollment. The school enrollment is down only 0.88%, so the remaining 10% will also be distributed to the departments. Watson asked if the Science/Liberal Arts committee at IUPUI is different from that at IUB. Dean Rhodes answered in the affirmative. Muhoberac made the observation that while one committee is discussing break-up of the
College of Liberal Arts and Science at IUB, another committee is discussing merger of schools of Science and Liberal Arts at IUPUI. Watson asked if we should ask the chairs to discuss all these issues with their faculty. Dean Rhodes answered in the affirmative, saying that junior faculty must be re-assured and adding that Dean Sukhatme will send out an e-mail to all faculty members.

6. President Watson discussed the future meeting dates for the Steering Committee. Currently, they are set up at 9:00 am on the first Friday of each month in the current semester (i.e., Oct 7, Nov 4, and Dec 2). However, since some committee members asked for a change, he asked everyone to look into and reconsider their availability at other potential times.

7. President Watson suggested Friday, Nov 11 as a possible date of Fall Faculty Assembly.

8. President Watson discussed future issues for the Steering Committee. More discussion on the Academic Directions document followed. Dean Rhodes mentioned that the Schools of Science and Liberal Arts both have a positive trajectory. He thinks that Dean Sukhatme has an open mind on this. President Watson mentioned possible administrator reviews to be conducted in Spring, 2012. He believes that the SOS should consider whether these are helpful. Jacinthe asked if reviews were mandated in the bylaws. Watson answered that administrator reviews are mandated but that we need to look closely at the bylaws with regard to this and certain other changes that may be needed. Watson said that the Steering Committee also needs to look into the status of the non-tenure track faculty (NTTF). President Watson observed that the lecturers are non-voting faculty in Science whereas they have voting rights in Liberal Arts.

9. Watson pointed out that the School of Science faculty needs to elect a fill-in representative to the IUPUI faculty council, as one of the current representatives has asked to be relieved. There is one nomination in response to President Watson’s request for nominations. President Watson will set up an electronic voting for this with yes/no/abstain options.

10. President Watson discussed the School of Science Promotion and Tenure Guidelines document. Past President Tuceryan set up an electronic voting in summer on this, but several faculty members objected saying that they needed more time to discuss it with other faculty members. Dean Rhodes clarified that last year’s interim rules will be followed this year also. If there is a conflict with the campus guidelines, the latter takes precedence. It was decided to aim for a vote on this document in the Fall Faculty Assembly.

11. President Watson brought up the issue of selecting departmental representatives to the various School of Science Faculty and Administrative Committees. Some committee members pointed out that they are assigned by their chairs (see page 5). President Watson pointed out that according to the bylaws, the selection method must be approved by the departmental voting faculty. He asked all departmental representatives to find out if that was the case in their departments. Associate Dean Marrs mentioned that the current School of Science Assessment Committee has many members from non-voting faculty. Watson noted that the table he supplied lists on which SOS committees non-voting faculty can serve. He went on to comment that the Steering Committee and faculty evaluate this topic in the future. Marrs also said that, currently, the School of Science Technology Committee does not have any undergraduate student technology fees to distribute because these fees now go to UITS. However, the Technology Committee does
have graduate student fees available. She would look into whether graduate student fees are within the purview of the Technology Committee. Dean Rhodes also mentioned that currently there is a Scholarship Committee whose members put in a lot of hard work. We need to know and recognize them. He also said that we need a Diversity Committee in the School of Science. Either Ad-hoc or Standing status for this committee is acceptable to him.

13. President Watson adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.
SOS Steering Committee

Agenda

Friday, September 2, 2011, 9-10:30 a.m.

Physics Conference Room, LD 154

1. Introductions
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of minutes from May 4, 2011
4. Role of the SC under the SOS Constitution and Bylaws
5. Comments by Dean Rhodes
6. Future SC meeting dates
7. Future Faculty Assembly dates
8. Potential SC activity during the 2011-12 academic year
9. Election of SOS representative to the IUPUI Faculty Council
10. Revision of the SOS P&T document
11. Selecting departmental representatives to SOS faculty committees
EXCERPT FROM THE SOS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS ABOUT SOS COMMITTEES:

SECTION VI. COMMITTEES OF THE FACULTY

Subsection 1. General Operation of Committees

a) Membership. Any member of the Voting Faculty may serve on any committee of the faculty, and, unless otherwise specified below, only members of the Voting Faculty may serve on committees of the faculty. Further, beyond matters judged to be confidential and not appropriate for general discussion outside the committee, the members of each committee are expected to communicate and consult with the faculty in their Departments and the faculty of the School of Science. The method of selection of Department Representatives, with the exception of the Unit Committee, shall be left to the Voting Faculty of the individual Departments.

SUMMARY OF SOS COMMITTEES DEFINED IN THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS:

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<td>Nominations and Awards</td>
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