Voting Members present: John Watson (President), Simon Rhodes (Dean), Teri Belecky-Adams (Biology), Barry Muhoberac (Chemistry and Chemical Biology), Yao Liang (Computer and Information Science), Greg Druschel (substituting for Gabriel Filippelli) (Earth Sciences), Vitaly Tarasov (Mathematical Sciences), Stephen Wassall (Physics), John McGrew (Psychology)

Non-Voting Members present: Kathy Marrs (Associate Dean), David Skalnik (Associate Dean), Jeff Watts (Associate Dean), Mihran Tuceryan (Past President), Snehasis Mukhopadhyay (Secretary)

1. President John Watson called the meeting to order at 11:04 am. The agenda was adopted unanimously (see page 4).

2. President Watson asked for any amendments to the minutes of the last Steering Committee meeting on 12/02/2011. Muhoberac suggested a minor change on page 2 concerning the frequency of regular faculty meetings in the Chemistry and Chemical Biology department. The amended minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Dean Rhodes informed that the spring 2012 enrollment in the school is down 1.5% consistent with the idea that enrollments are stabilizing. This relatively small decrease does not affect the budget which had a 3% buffer built in with regard to the enrollments so that the numbers are within the budget parameters. Bidding is out for the proposed new Science and Engineering Laboratory Building (SELB) whose ceremonial groundbreaking is scheduled for March 28 at 2:00 pm. Associate Deans David Skalnik and N. Doug Lees conducted a space study for the school. They found that there is very little space that is not well used. Indeed, there is a space crisis with inadequate space for new hires, productive research programs, etc... The school has rented space at the HITS building, Walker Plaza, and BRTC building. There are tough decisions ahead in regards to the issue of both quantity and quality of space. The new SELB building will help, but will not solve all problems. In regards to the Chair searches, Dean Rhodes informed the Committee that the Psychology department chair search is nearing completion with the selection of Dr. Peggy Stockdale whose tenure and appointment are at the school Unit Committee now. Chemistry and Chemical Biology is having a second visit by a chair candidate. The Mathematical Sciences department has selected three chair candidates for visits. Dean Rhodes mentioned a CBS 60-minutes story on national TV on Freshman Science student on Jacob Barnett which he thought was a good showcase for the school. He reminded everyone that Executive Vice Chancellor Uday Sukhatme is leaving IUPUI at the end of the Spring, 2012 term. With regard to the New Academic Directions (NAD) proposals, Dean Rhodes summarized that no rationale was found for merger between Schools of Science and Liberal Arts. The Informatics and Computer Science NAD committee is now on hold, but decided to form a council called C4 (Computing Curriculum Coordination Council). Snehasis Mukhopadhyay and Mihran Tuceryan are representing the School of Science in this council. Another NAD committee discussed the health campus proposal and published the results of a faculty survey. This was discussed by the IUPUI deans. A campus finance committee (RPC) also previously
discussed campus finances and concluded that the campus is a net giver to the medical school. Another issue is that the medical school prefers a change from the iupui e-mail address. IU President McRobbie had sent an e-mail saying that any school can now ask for a generic IU e-mail. While this may somewhat undermine the IUPUI identity, it can perhaps help with the situation. On another issue, Dean Rhodes had some concerns about the course evaluations conducted in the school. However, in some departments, post-tenure faculty members do not conduct such evaluations. Dean Rhodes thinks that this is not desirable, since such data is very important. He thinks all faculty members should use the student satisfaction surveys and also that a more efficient process is desirable. He asked everyone to think about the pros and cons of an on-line course evaluation process. The Psychology, Mathematical Sciences, Computer and Information Science, and Physics representatives pointed out that all courses are evaluated in their departments. Dean Rhodes stated that currently some post-tenure faculty in some departments opt out of course evaluations. He would like all faculty members in all departments to do course evaluations as one tool that is part of a wider array of teaching and learning assessments. Muhoberac commented that, according to study he saw, only extreme values of the global score and not those in the middle are meaningful. He supports standardization, but would prefer alternate, more constructive ways of using such data, rather than using just the raw scores. Associate Dean Watts thinks multiple perspectives should be used for assessing teaching quality, but with tuition being so expensive, students should have a voice. He said that, while extremes of the scores are more meaningful, promotion and tenure committees can decide to use middle values as well. President Watson recollected that Professor Ray Chin of the Mathematical Sciences department conducted an analysis of the course evaluation data. Dean Rhodes suggested that we can ask Dr. Chin for his findings. Liang asked if there is a correlation between grades and student satisfaction scores. Dean Rhodes said that, intriguingly, in some national studies this was found to be not the case. President Watson asked the departmental representatives to discuss this issue with their departmental colleagues. He may call for a vote on this issue in a future meeting.

4. President Watson discussed future Steering Committee meeting dates. These were set to be March 7, April 4, and May 9. He asked if the May 9 meeting could be moved to May 2, in view of the exam period on May 9. Everyone agreed and it was so decided. President Watson proposed Friday, April 6, 9:00 am as the Spring 2012 Faculty Assembly date and time. He will work out and circulate the agenda later. He reminded everyone of a special faculty assembly on February 10 to discuss revisions to the school promotion and tenure guidelines. The proposed changes to the guidelines have been lumped into various groups. At the special assembly, Past President Tuceryan will also make a presentation about peer-reviewed conference papers. This assembly is for information exchange only, and not for voting which will be carried out electronically afterwards.

5. President Watson distributed some proposed changes to school by-laws. These included a proposal to change the definition of voting faculty to include lecturers. Any restriction on voting (such as curricular issues and promotion and tenure) must be addressed somewhere else in the document. Dean Rhodes observed that our school has a variety of cultures in various departments in this respect, and that the proposed changes, being only for the school level decision-making, do not necessarily affect departmental practices.
McGrew stated his agreement to the proposed change. Belecky-Adams noted that the proposed change is in agreement with the Department of Biology practices. In response to a question from Liang, Dean Rhodes stated that there are 129 tenure-track and 53 non-tenure track faculty members in the school. Associate Dean Watts thought that sometimes lecturers can bring new perspectives to issues, such as the administrator term limit. However, he thought that the curriculum is the domain of the tenure-track faculty only. President Watson will look into the entire by-laws to see where exclusions to voting rights should be made. He also discussed another proposed by-law change regarding administrator reviews to make it more regular and simplified. Dean Rhodes noted that the proposed change will require more work, but will make the process more efficient. President Watson discussed the last of the proposed by-law changes regarding the nominations to Indiana University Faculty Council. Currently, the by-laws require that these nominations should be decided by the school Nominations and Awards Committee. However, the UFC send these requests to the school faculty president. He thinks that this would be more appropriate for the Steering Committee. Tarasov commented the definition of extended faculty would apply to such nominations as well. President Watson said that he would look into this point.

6. Old Business: None.

7. New Business: Muhoberac asked about the next step in the health campus survey process. Dean Rhodes said that there will be another financial assessment of interactions between the “health schools” and the rest of campus and likely also another, more specific survey. President Watson informed the Committee that invitations had been sent to all chairs and deans to participate in the administrator reviews. He has all the past review questions except for those for the two recent associate dean positions. He will form two sub-committees to decide on the review questions for these two new positions.

8. Motion to adjourn at 12:41 pm was unanimously approved.
SOS Steering Committee

Agenda

Wednesday, February 8, 2011, 11 a.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Biology Conference Room (SL 306C)

1. Approval of the agenda

2. Approval of the minutes from December 2, 2011
   http://sos.science.iupui.edu/facultycouncil/SCmin.htm

3. Comments from the Dean’s Administration (see attached document concerning student satisfaction surveys)

4. Steering Committee meetings for Spring 2012 (currently set for 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 8, Apr. 4, and May 9, all Wednesdays; can we move the May 9 meeting to May 2?)

5. Spring Faculty Assembly (Friday, April 6?)

6. Special Faculty Assembly for the SOS P&T document discussion (Friday, Feb 10)

7. Proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws: role of non-tenure track faculty in SOS faculty governance

8. Proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws: conducting administrative reviews

9. Proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws: redefining the role of the Nominations and Awards Committee

10. NAD: health science report and survey

11. Old business

12. New business

13. Subcommittee for Administrative Reviews: organizing administrative reviews of Deans and Chairs for this semester