School of Science Steering Committee Minutes
April 4, 2012

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), Vitaly Tarasov (Mathematical Sciences), Stephen Wassall (Physics), John McGrew (Psychology)

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

1. President John Watson called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. He called to approve the agenda. The agenda was adopted unanimously (see page 4).

2. President Watson asked for any amendments to the minutes of the last two Steering Committee meetings on 03/07/2012 and 03/21/2012. He suggested that we include the exact language of the two motions passed regarding course evaluations in the minutes of the meeting on 03/07/2012. These languages are:
   (i) Motion 1: “Every course section in the School of Science (SOS) should be subject to formal student feedback”.
   (ii) Motion 2: “The Steering Committee will initiate an examination of the current student satisfaction surveys used in SOS”.

The so-amended minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Dean Rhodes informed the committee that several SOS faculty members and students recently were recognized by the campus. Biology faculty Steve Randall received the Center for Research and Learning Mentorship award, Earth Sciences faculty Andy Barth was named a Chancellor’s Professor, Leslie Ashburn-Nardo (Psychology faculty) received the Chancellor’s Diversity Scholar award, and Anna Malkova (Biology faculty) received the Research Trailblazer award. Further, 34 of the IUPUI Top 100 students selected were from SOS, and 6 of the 20 IUPUI students selected for Civic Engagement awards were from SOS. Dean Rhodes also stated that Dr. Nigel Richards from University of Florida will join the school as the Chair of the Chemistry and Chemical Biology department. He is an analytical/computational (bio)chemist who has won teaching awards. Eli Lilly and Company is interested in research collaborations with him. He is also well known in the IU Cancer Center and the School of Medicine Biochemistry department and this will help build research collaborations between SOS and the rest of the campus. Dean Rhodes also initiated a Diversity Council composed of SOS staff, faculty, and students. He mentioned the ground-breaking ceremony of the new Science and Engineering Laboratory Building (SELB), commenting that it brought good press for SOS. He informed the committee that he will initiate a quick strategic planning process to identify short and medium term goals and action items for the SOS. The Steering Committee, department chairs, the staff council, and the associate deans will be involved in this process. Pointing out that it was the budget week, he asked Associate Dean Lees to comment on the budget.
• Associate Dean Lees started by informing that the SELB building is a $25 million project, out of which $20 million is for the building itself. This is funded by dollars displaced by grant indirect cost recovery (ICR). Indiana University President McRobbie has provided $5 million from the Angel sale credited to E&T and the SOS has provided $3 million in cash; the rest ($17 million) will be covered through the sale of 20-year bonds. The bonds were sold in February at a very favorable rate of just over 3%. The annual debt service payment will be $1,145,000, out of which the campus will pay $1 million. Of the remaining $145,000, SOS will pay 77% and School of Engineering and Technology (SOET) will pay 23%. The annual operating costs of ~$1 million will also be split 77%/23% between SOS and SOET. The R&R depreciation cost will be $600,000/year for 40 years, once again split 77%/23% between SOS and SOET. As costs are now estimated the SOS will altogether have to pay $1.5 -1.7 million/year. Muhoberac asked if we can request an exemption for the depreciation cost. Dean Rhodes said that SOS is still discussing it with the university. Watson wanted to know who decided on this new depreciation charge. Dean Rhodes answered that formally it was the chancellor, with possible input from Neil Theobold.

• Associate Dean Lees continued that SOS budget for 2012-2013 year will be $1.5 million smaller than last year’s. State appropriation will be exactly the same. Enrollment is predicted to be down a little; tuition is up 2.5%, but there is a cost for the university announced summer tuition discount. ICR income will go up between $100,000 and $200,000. Assessments are up $1.5 million. SOS will also pay into the Chancellor’s reallocation funds at ~$370,000 more than last year. Departmental budgets will not be affected by the overall diminished budget and graduate student support will not be reduced. There is 1.5% raise allocated for faculty and all staff. Schools can add another 0.7% but that would not be available for one class of staff (non-exempts). Thus, the School will distribute at the 1.5% level for all groups and, in consultation with chairs where indicated, will make adjustments for a small number of key individual faculty and exempt staff. Raises will be based on merit per IU policy.

• SOS priority enrollment is down 5.3% relative to the same point last year. McGrew asked what was driving the enrollment decrease. Associate Dean Lees answered that the freshman class is getting smaller. Dean Rhodes added that demography of our state and competition from neighboring states are also factors. Associate Dean Watts commented that Miami University (Ohio) is marketing to high SAT score students in the Indianapolis area. Dean Rhodes stated student volume (and not just quality) should be added to SOS emphases. The tuition may not go up in the future to partially compensate for the loss in enrollment. He observed that the hit-rate for grant submissions in SOS is healthy, and we need to improve our research grant submission numbers.

4. President Watson reminded everyone of the upcoming SOS faculty assembly on Friday, 4/6/2012. He informed that Drs. Xianzhong Wang and Michael McLeish, SOS current representatives to IFC, have both agreed to be re-nominated. He will decide whether to have a faculty vote at the assembly or have an e-vote on this. Regarding the President-elect/Secretary nominations, he spoke to 6 faculty members, but no one has yet agreed to
be nominated. Regarding the proposed by-law change regarding voting faculty, he said that one question could be why only senior lecturers, lecturers, and clinical faculty are included but research rank faculty are excluded. Dean Rhodes observed that some of the other ranks could be closer to staff than faculty. McGrew observed that the other rank appointments may be opportunity based using “soft money” not employing the normal formal search process. President Watson brought up the topic of the proposed change in the by-laws stating that the department representatives on Steering Committee should be elected by departmental voting faculty. There was a difference in opinion in the Steering Committee regarding what was approved previously by the Steering Committee in this matter, and this could not be resolved by consulting the minutes. He mentioned that there could be a motion in Friday’s assembly requiring such election. Associate Dean Watts thought that Steering Committee members should be elected. McGrew moved that “Departmental representatives to the Steering Committee should be elected by the voting faculty of the respective department.” The motion was passed unanimously.

5. With respect to old business, President Watson updated everyone that Dr. Jacqueline Singh of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) at IUPUI has been analyzing student satisfaction surveys from many schools at IUPUI. She analyzed the SOS lecture, laboratory, recitation, and active learning surveys as well as the survey used in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. President Watson will meet with Dr. Singh to get her views. The Campus Accreditation Committee has a statement in its report requiring course evaluations.

6. At this point of the meeting, the Dean and the Associate Deans were excused, and the subcommittee on administrative reviews (SAR) continued meeting, discussing the upcoming administrative reviews for the Dean, the Associate Deans, and the Chairs. These discussions are not included in these minutes to maintain confidentiality.

7. Motion to adjourn at 12:40 pm was unanimously approved.
SOS Steering Committee
Agenda
Wednesday, April 4, 2012, 11 a.m. - 12:30 a.m.
Biology Conference Room (SL 306C)

1. Approval of the agenda

2. Approval of the minutes from Mar. 7 and Mar. 21, 2012
   http://sos.science.iupui.edu/facultycouncil/SCmin.htm

3. Comments from the Dean's Administration

4. Spring Faculty Assembly (Friday, April 6, LD 010)

5. Nominees for SOS representatives to IFC, SOS Secretary/President-Elect

6. Proposed changes to the Bylaws

7. Old business

8. New business

9. Subcommittee for Administrative Reviews: organizing administrative reviews of Deans and Chairs for this year