Voting Members Present: Simon Rhodes (Dean), Bethany Neal-Beliveau (Psychology/President), Horia Petrache (Physics), Vitaly Tarasov, (Mathematical Sciences), Dennis Devine (Psychology), Christoph Naumann (Chemistry and Chemical Biology), Yao Liang (Computer and Information Science), Jiliang Li (Biology), Lin Li (Earth Sciences)

Non-Voting Members: Doug Lees, Kathy Marrs, Snehasis Mukhopadhyay (Computer Science [Past President]), Michelle Salyers (Secretary),

Visitors present: Jane Williams (Psychology) and Rosemarie Temple (Deans Office)

1. Approval of agenda. President Neal-Beliveau called the meeting to order. She noted the need to change the agenda, deleting the section on reports of the Associate Dean, because Dave Skalnik could not attend. She called for a motion to approve the agenda. There was a motion, a second and it was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from December 16, 2013. President Neal-Beliveau asked if there were any suggested revisions to the minutes from the last meeting. She called for a motion to approve the minutes. There was a motion, a second, and the minutes were approved without changes.

3. Comments by Dean Rhodes

We have faculty searches ongoing in various departments, including Biology, Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Forensics, Math Sci chair and Psychology. There are really good candidates coming through.

The strategic planning is continuing. We have 3 drafts - a long one with goals including numeric indicators, a medium one, and a short one. Now, we will be refining them into public documents, and identifying who wants to help with different parts of the strategic plan. IUPUI strategic planning is also coming to a head. The latest draft is available on the website. The campus is aiming for February 27th as the final version, with the “state of the union” address for our campus.

SELB building update. Through bulk purchasing we saved $80,000 on the equipment. We were also helped by a grant Dave Skalnik received for $500,000.

School enrollment is up 5.4% in census this semester.

The deans/chairs met with Dean David Lewis of the Undergraduate Library. The Library receives money by a tax on units (SOS is one of the units). The Library needs to save money, and is planning to change some journal subscriptions. Looking at usage and costs of journals, the Library has identified that in some cases it will be better for the Library to pay by article, rather than journal. Check with your department’s representative on the Library committee who are meeting to discuss this. We can also ask Barry Muhoberac (Chair, Library Committee)
in Chemistry if faculty members want to know more about it. Christoph Naumann (CN) asked if faculty have access to other campus libraries? Dean Rhodes (DR) replied that not really, each campus has its own license. Vitaly Tarasov (VT) said that we might be able to go through IU VPN off campus, but there was some discussion that it may not work.

Sharing good news – there was a student who was applying for medical school and the Dean helped her prepare for interview. She sent a thank you to say that she was admitted to two schools.

4. Updates from Associate Deans (postponed for next month)

5. SOS Student Satisfaction Survey – first semester’s data (Jane Williams)

Bethany Neal-Beliveau (BNB) reminded us the background of the new scale and Jane Williams (JW) presented preliminary psychometric data on the new instrument. Items 1-8 relate to the instructor; items 9-11 are more general satisfaction items.

She presented an exploratory factor analysis that shows one strong factor (accounts for 78% of variance, which is high for psychology measures). Although the data was from a single semester, there were over 7,000 responses. This increases confidence in the data.

The overall response rate was 39% - not ideal, but not horrific for survey research. Average response rate per section is reported, too. The overall rate was 39%, but this ranged across departments 36% to 51%.

Looked at types of courses, responses were higher for graduate and major courses than entry-level courses. She found significant differences, with graduate courses having significantly higher rates than all other levels, and 100-level courses had significantly lower than all other levels.

Yao Liang (YL) asked if we could look at the online versus paper rates. DR reminded us that we did not have a bias based on response rate. JW added that we looked at self-report of percentage of classes that student attended, and some are still filling out the survey, even with not attending the class.

Jane presented a correlation table to examine relationships between demographics and satisfaction. Very few of these were significant. She reminded us that anything near zero shows almost no relationship between constructs. Those with a higher “projected” grade were more satisfied, but this only accounts for about 9% in satisfaction. YL said that for him, the biggest relationship was the projected course grade and evaluation of the instructor.

VT suggested that Jane should add more explanations (e.g., the grades were “reverse” coded). Jane shared her view that from a psychometric point of view, the scale is functioning well. The school average satisfaction was 5.1 out of 6, with no significant differences across departments.

DR asked – would this data enable us as a department/chair/school to identify those who are “really good” and those who need help? Although scores are skewed, will we be able to use the
data to identify those extremes? JW responded, yes, looking at multiple sections for the same class, she does see variability.

Jane reminded us that the old scale scoring was 1-5 and new scale is 1 to 6; so we don’t have a direct comparison. She calculated a standardized z score, and created a mean for department.

Horia Petrache (HP) noted that Physics looks good. BNB commented that some of the old items might not have applied for Physics on the old form (e.g., this class improved my writing), and those items are gone.

HP also noted that by including graduate and undergraduate we are inflating the mean. He suggested that it could be better to look at undergrad courses separately. Jane responded that she and Mark Federwisch are working on what reports are available to chairs. She and Mark will be working on Excel files.

Dennis Devine (DD) noted that the items tapping specific perceptions are higher means than overall satisfaction, and we had a discussion that the more specific ratings may be more accurate.

Dean Rhodes thanked Jane for the amount of work she has put in. He also thanked the steering committee, recognizing the long journey to get here.

6. New Business

BNB brought forward one piece of new business -- a last chance to nominate people for University Faculty Council to review and decide who goes on the ballot. This is for the university, and the meetings alternate between Bloomington and IUPUI. DR said in the past you could attend on this campus. DR said that it was an interesting experience and that you learn a great deal. BNB said she has received two nominations of faculty who meet the requirements. She had two other people who offered, but are not tenure-track faculty so cannot vote at the university level. She needs to know within the next couple of days. So if you think someone in your department is really interested, to let her know.

7. Old Business

BNB reminded us of the proposed change in the bylaws. She charged the Steering Committee to go back to their departments to let them know about it, prior to the electronic vote. As a reminder, the idea was to vote on adding a line that the voting faculty could vote on individual, non-voting faculty to have voting rights after being approved by their department. She can resend the wording if we need it.

8. Subcommittee for Administrative Reviews: organizing administrative reviews of Deans and Chairs for this year. Deans, Past President, and visitors left at this time.
SOS Steering Committee (SC) Agenda
Monday, January 27, 2014, 3:00 – 4:30 PM
Psychology Department Conference Room - LD124B

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes from December 16, 2013
3. Comments by Dean Rhodes
4. Updates from Associate Deans
   a. David Skalnik, Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Education
5. SOS Student Satisfaction Survey – first semester’s data (Jane Williams)
6. New Business
7. Old Business
8. Subcommittee for Administrative Reviews: organizing administrative reviews of Deans and Chairs for this year