Steering Committee Minutes – September 11, 2009

Voting Members: Jyoti Sarkar (President), Bart Ng (Dean), Xianzhong Wang (Bio), Barry Muhoberac (Chem), Snehasis Mukhopadhyay (CIS), Pierre Jacinthe (Earth Sc), Marcos Betancourt for Ricardo Decca (Phys), John McGrew (Psych), Will Geller (Math)

Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members: Jim Murphy (Associate Dean), Jane Williams (Past President), Mihran Tuceryan (Secretary)

Guest: Benzion Boukai,

1. President Sarkar called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.
2. Will Geller moved and Snehasis Mukhopadhyay seconded to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.
3. John McGrew moved to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2009 meeting and Xianzhong Wang seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. President Sarkar gave the floor to Benzion Boukai who has served on the university budgetary affairs committee for the last seven years (the last four as chair). Boukai shared with the committee his experience regarding the university budget process and its implications for the School of Science. He explained that the income consists of three components: (i) tuition and fees, (ii) state appropriations, and (iii) indirect cost recovery (ICR). Under the responsibility center management (RCM) model, the tax assessed for each unit has three components of equal weight: (i) size of the faculty, (ii) size of space, and (iii) size of the credit hours generated. On the other hand, Boukai pointed out how state appropriation is allocated to the units has no clear formula. He pointed out that starting in year 2002, the university stopped reporting state appropriations/student statistics. In 2002-2003, doing the arithmetic for $198M/(number of students) results in about $10-12K/student, which show that IUPUI is doing better than IU Bloomington. Appropriations from the state come in separate lines for health related units and for general academics. The appropriation per FTE student in resident health is $30.7K, whereas that in general academics is $6.4K. Also cost per resident only student for regional campuses is higher than us ($7.7K). Assessment has been increasing over the years relative to state appropriations. Physical facilities allocated have been relatively stable over the years.

Ben Boukai handed out publicly available statistics and budget numbers that show that the state appropriations for general academic units in 2008-2009 was $104M but the amount that was allocated to the same units was $65M. He pointed out that there is a discrepancy between what the state gives to general academic units on campus and what the units receive in reality. Part of the difference goes to the executive management unit which consists of chancellor’s office, signature centers, commitments to various units, debt servicing on building etc.

5. Dean Ng went over the following items:
   a. He pointed out that there are some new budget issues for the School of Science due to the proposal made by President McRobbie to the State Legislature. This would mean that those students (juniors and seniors) who enroll full time for two semesters in a row and maintain a GPA of at least 3.00 will get back $300 rebates. There are approximately 5000 students at IUPUI who may qualify and about 20%
of them are in the SoS. This implies that the School will have to return to the university about $300K from the budget to cover this. However, increased credit hour enrollments will likely generate additional income to compensate for it.

b. Dean Ng gave an update on the state of the MLC building. He said that all the players seem to be on board. He said everything seems to be going well including the vivarium issue which seems to be resolved.

c. Dean Ng went over the presentation he gave to the Dean’s Leadership Council meeting on September 2.

d. Dean Ng also said he has asked the Chairs to use next few months to plan about how to adjust salaries when the freeze on salary increases is lifted. He said the school must hire faculty at market rates to maintain high quality and also address the salary compression issue for the current faculty.

e. President McRobbie will give the State of the University address on Sep 22, 2009 in Bloomington this year.

f. Dean Ng asked representatives to send emails to Joe Thompson and Anne Marie Chastain if they liked the SL and LD banners that were hung on the SL and LD building entrances at the beginning of this academic year.

6. Old Business:

a. President Sarkar talked to past president Jane Williams about following up with Phil Scarpino (President of School of Liberal Arts Faculty Assembly) regarding some issues left over from last year.

b. President Sarkar pointed out that we need to nominate someone for IUPUI representative to the Purdue University Senate. The department representatives have been notified about this.

7. President Sarkar pointed out that Dean Ng had suggested we change the terms for department representatives on the Steering Committee from 2 years to 3 years in order to maintain continuity on the committee. Also, Dean Ng suggested that perhaps these terms should be staggered so that there are some experienced representatives on the committee at any given time. This issue will be on the agenda of the next SC meeting on Oct 9, 2009. The goal is to have a voting item by this semester’s Faculty Assembly. The suggested date for Fall Faculty assembly is Oct 30, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 AM