School of Science Steering Committee Minutes
January 21, 2011

Voting Members present: Mihran Tuceryan (President), Bart Ng (Dean of the School of Science), Teri Belecky-Adams (Biology), Barry Muhoberac (Chemistry and Chemical Biology), Yao Liang (Computer and Information Science), Pierre-André Jacinthe (Earth Sciences), Vitaly Tarasov (Mathematical Sciences), Stephen Wassall (Physics), John McGrew (Psychology)

Non-Voting Members present: Kathy Marrs (Associate Dean), James Murphy (Associate Dean), Jeff Watt (Associate Dean), Jyoti Sarkar (Past President), John Watson (Secretary)

1. President Mihran Tuceryan called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.
2. The agenda was adopted unanimously (see page 3).
3. President Tuceryan asked for comments on the minutes of the October 11, 2010 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Dean’s search
   Tuceryan stated that two more candidates were scheduled to make second visits. Barry Muhoberac raised the issue of there was sufficient faculty enthusiasm for the current group of candidates. Kathy Marrs noted that the search committee solicited faculty input. Watson summarized his understanding of the search committee’s report to the Chancellor. Muhoberac raised the question of whether the search should be reopened. Pierre-André Jacinthe summarized the search committee’s letter, resulting in continued discussion among the committee. The question was raised as to whether the Steering Committee should take some form of action. Ng described his opinion of the search and candidates in general terms.
5. President Tuceryan turned the floor over to Dean Bart Ng for his comments.
   • Ng described the recent plans by Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) to base a portion of the state funding on performance indicators. In essence, the ICHE proposes to withhold a portion of the base state funding to redistribute to campuses based on a system in which trends in enrollment, retention, and graduation feature prominently. He stated that IUPUI fares well under the proposed system with a 7.3% increase whereas IUB will experience a 12% reduction. IvyTech would see a 6.4% reduction. NG believes that we will have a budget cut. He noted that our future depends on our students with regard to increased retention and graduation rate, and increased research, and is therefore under faculty control. We can no longer expect the state legislature to provide generous funding. Nothing solid can be known with regard to state allocations until the legislative session ends. The school’s fiscal health is improved because of enrollment is up (although not as much as in previous years). The enrollment in Biology is up although the enrollment in Math is down. He asked the Math department to examine their enrollment issue. Jeff Watt added that number of K-12 students of pre-college age is declining.
   • Ng noted that he is now fully versed on the SOS budget but is still trying to deal with department budgets. Some departments have higher cost structures than others, and may have been getting support for particular types of activities. For example, Chemistry spends more on peer-led teaching and learning but Biology does not. He suggests an analysis of cost vs. return. He believes that all departments should receive
similar support from the School. He has focused on building the faculty, and there are still faculty lines in reserve. He wants to increase the number of staff and improve our support infrastructure. He does not believe that faculty should be doing work that staff can do. He also wants to build the office of the Associate Dean for Research. We must keep our research momentum going. He noted that the new building is being funded with research overhead.

- Ng explained design approval for the new building (SELB1) will be on the agenda for the February meeting of the IU trustees. He noted that discussions of a basement for SELB1 are ongoing, but he does not want the building delayed. The IU budget request has 5 capital projects. The only new building requested is SELB2 while the other 4 projects are renovation and rehabilitation. Planning for what will be SELB3 is underway.

- The Space Study: Ng noted that Emily Wren’s office hired an outside firm to conduct the study. He noted that the Master Plan was conducted without reference to the Academic Plan. The new contractor asked about academic plans for the School and Departments. Space utilization in the SOS, Liberal Arts, Business, Education, Law, and Engineering & Technology is being reviewed. The contractor will be on campus over the next 3 months and will have the Dean’s Development Plan. The draft will include the type of space needed for the School’s development goals, and then financing can be addressed. The report of the contractor will be taken into account relative to SELB2.

6. Ph.D. program proposals
- Associate Dean Jim Murphy explained that David Skalnik will be taking over his duties.
- Murphy noted that the Research Committee reviewed the Biology Ph.D. proposal. This proposal will move forward to the IUPUI Graduate Committee, then to the Purdue system, and then to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. He noted that the proposal from Chemistry & Chemical Biology is close to being ready.

7. Faculty annual report (FAR)
- Watson stated that several faculty in Biology expressed concern over the new online FAR because they view the report as a confidential personnel document. There are questions over the ultimate confidentiality of the FAR, especially since the online information about the new FAR indicates that administrators can name delegates who will have access to the FAR.
- Muhoberac explained that the type of notes and comments a faculty member might intend for a Chair or Dean to read would be different than those intended for higher administration.
- The view was expressed that the faculty member should receive an electronic notice each time their FAR is accessed. This notice should identify the person identifying the document.
- Concern expressed over the potential use of the FAR for data mining and the extent to which confidentiality is consistent with this usage of the FAR.
- Muhoberac moved that the Steering Committee contact the Faculty Council to express our concerns over the FAR. The motion was seconded by Jacinthe and approved unanimously by the Committee.

8. President Tuceryan adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.
AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes of October 11, 2010 Meeting
   (http://sos.science.iupui.edu/facultycouncil/SCmin.htm then click on 10/11/2010 to download; make sure your browser is set for downloading)

3. Dean’s remarks
   a. Budget, department budgets, retreat with chairs about school budget, grant income
   b. Hiring and support structure
   c. IHEC recommendations on higher ed budgets
   d. Building update and IU capital requests
   e. The Space Study
   f. Dean Ng welcomes questions from the departments

4. Dean Search

5. Ph.D. program proposals

6. Faculty annual reports

7. New business