SOS Steering Committee Minutes
Monday, January 29, 2018 (12:00-1:00PM)
Biology Conference Room SL 306

Present: Randall Roper (President), Yogesh Joglekar (Immediate past President), Lei Li (Secretary), Rob Minto (Chemistry and Chemical Biology), Chris Lapish (Psychology), Jason Meyer (Biology), Snehasis Mukhopadhyay (Computer and Information Science), Gautam Vemuri (Physics), Gabriel Filippelli (Earth Sciences), Simon Rhodes (Deans office), Doug Lees (Deans office), Jane Williams (Deans office)

Excused: Pierre Jacinthe (Earth Sciences), Ben Boukai (Math), David Skalnik (Deans office)

1. Approval of agenda
   
   Meeting was called to order at 12:02 and agenda was approved

2. Approval of minutes (minutes from November 2017 approved)

3. Comments by Dean Rhodes
   
   a) IUPUI leadership asks units for inputs/feedback by May 31st about the career path/rank of non-tenure track (NTT) faculty. Suggested career paths and new ranks should be explored. The criteria for promotion should be carefully considered. However, the impact of up or out policies which are in effect at other IU campuses should be considered because the SOS has several productive faculty that would be negatively affected by such a change. Similarly, any requirements for doctoral level degrees might negatively impact some of our SOS disciplines.

   b) School steering and unit committees have been asked by the Dean to review the P&T guidelines.
      
      • The Chancellor in response to the President’s speech asks us to review criteria for teaching excellence. This should be done for both TT and NTT tracks.
      • The unit committee has also noticed that our guidelines need updating in terms of how our candidates are informed after each step.
      • Our Science use of eDossier is under question - there is message from campus that we need to put the responsibility onto the candidates
      • It is also likely that the instructions and guidance for chairs seeking external letters needs reviewing.
      • There also could be other areas to update.

   c) We will be meeting with campus facility services because Biology and Computer Science suffered another flood in SL. The buildings we are in are not very well designed. Campus will put in a capital request to redo heating, insulation etc. in our buildings.
4. Reports from Associate Deans

a. Jane Williams
   Yesterday was SOS Dean Scholarship Day. During the four-hour time span we had ~ 25 students coming with their parents. The closest student was from Bloomington; we had 8 ~ 10 students from IL, and one even from Texas with his mom. It was a good day. Parents from IL were very aware of the midwest student exchange program. Both students and parents were grateful about the visit. Lilly auditorium was almost full. Diana felt that we should make them look at the residency hall in the future. Our students who helped in this event were great!

Looking for a student commencement speaker. It is good for dept, dean, and faculty to apply some pressure to the right student to encourage him/her to stand out as the speaker. The student will receive a lot of practice and coaching before standing on the podium.

b. Dave Skalnik
   SOS has put in a good number of IUCRG applications this past cycle. It is always a good practice for SOS faculty, especially our junior faculty, to participate in such an activity.

c. Doug Lees
   Our enrollment is down 0.2% and our credit hours are only down 21 credit hours for the spring semester. Depts may be fully funded; details will be revealed next week.

5. Current business:

a. Statement on diversity for departments (Chris Lapish)
   Dear Colleagues,
   The School of Science is proud of the diversity of our faculty. To ensure we continue to grow the number of faculty from historically underrepresented groups it is imperative that we strive to improve their representation in leadership roles in the School of Science. The 2017-2018 School of Science steering committee is asking that when you and your colleagues choose your standing committee representatives for the 2018-2019 academic year you keep this in mind. We would underscore that this request is not intended to influence the process by which you choose your standing committee representatives, but rather a request to consider diversity an important issue during your process.
   Sincerely,
   2017-2018 Steering Committee

b. Subcommittees on Teaching Excellence and P&T Processes
   Two subcommittees: one addressing teaching excellence, another on P&T mechanics. Ideally, 4~6 people are needed for each subcommittee. Both NTT faculty and TT faculty are recommended to serve in the Teaching Excellence Subcommittee. The ratio between NTT/TT faculty is suggested to be 2:4. The requirements for promotion are different for NTT and TT faculty.
Subcommittee on Teaching Excellence: NTT faculty representatives are Debby Herold and Keith Anliker; TT faculty representatives are: Pratibha Varma-Nelson, Mukhopadhyay Snehasis, Kathy Mars, and Jeff Watts.

Subcommittee on P&T processes: Peggy Stockdale, Rajeev Raje, Charley Goodlett, Andy Barth, Ricardo Decca

Randall Roper and Rajeev Raje will together ask the nominees to serve in the subcommittees.

c. Budgetary Affairs Committee
Mukhopadhyay Snehasis has conflicts with his class schedule; he cannot make the budgetary affairs committee meetings in the spring semester. The budgetary committee deals with taxes, library issues etc. at the campus level. The meeting is on the last Tuesday of the month 12-1:30pm. Chris Lapish volunteered to substitute for Snehasis this semester.

6. Other business
a. Subcommittee for Administrative Review: How is the information provided back to chairs and deans? There was no issue last year. The bylaw says that the spirit ought to be retained. The Steering Committee is in favor of doing some light edit of the reviews. The edit has to be annotated and the person whose feedback is edited has to be informed.

7. Next meeting
a. Fridays – Second Friday 12-1:30?

8. Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 1:02pm.