SOS Steering Committee Agenda  
Thursday, September 23, 2017, (12:00-1:30PM)  
Biology Conference Room SL 306

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

Excused: Pierre Jacinthe (Earth Sciences)

1. Approval of agenda  
   *Meeting was called to order at 12:05 and agenda was approved*

2. Introduction of Steering Committee members

3. Approval of minutes (minutes already approved from April 2017)

4. Comments by Dean Rhodes
   - Thanks to Lei Li for stepping up!
   - Sad news – passing of Science student in a traffic accident – a Science undergraduate student was fatally injured by an IPS school bus – others have witnessed near-misses involving students and some faculty including the dean and motor vehicles - campus safety is a concern – The concern of the Steering Committee over safety will be passed up to higher administrative levels
   - Sad news – Dr. Jay Siegel– previous chair of chemistry department and the founding director of forensic science program - passed away
   - All gender bathrooms will be installed on first floors of SL and LD – men’s room slightly smaller to accommodate the all gender bathroom
   - Tested experience policy – thanks for faculty’s quick responses – submitted to campus and already on record – Applied to subsets of discipline – all chairs will receive the message.
   - Program chair/director reviews – these will be added to the annual chair reviews
   - DACA students – a most challenging time for DACA students at IUPUI and in School of Science - Indiana University leadership and IUPUI leadership supports our DACA students - important to make these students feel secure and supported - please support them and give a most supportive environment
   - Budget discussions with campus ongoing – we are significantly overtaxed (by ~ $3 million/yr) – current tax at $5 million/yr, while $2 million/yr is more reasonable

5. Reports from Associate Deans
   a. Jane Williams
New executive director for Marketing and Media Relations, Lauren Key – Dept encouraged to invite her to faculty meeting

Psychology pilot review – To see how it goes on the campus level – Classes should be standing at the right level – Faculty should be re-examining what the campus stands for.

Capstones: important to undergraduate education – currently there is no universal standard for Capstone and learning outcomes

Websites redesign to facilitate usage of mobile devices – mobile devices may or may not be good – but half of applications to school are done via cellphones

b. Dave Skalnik
- Research activity in the school is strong, and external funding is higher than last year at this point in the fiscal year.
- The Purdue Graduate School is going to ask faculty to assign a grade each semester for students engaged in 698/699 research. They discourage the common practice of assigning a grade of “R”, which gets converted to “S” at the time of graduation. Faculty will also be asked provide each graduate student a written summary of expectations at the start of each semester.

c. Doug Lees (see below)

6. Current business:

The Root Causes of Our Budget Difficulties (by Doug Lees)

a. The take home messages on finances
- Our enrollment, tuition income and budgets have remained flat while our taxes have increased by $4M and our salary/fridge benefits pay-out has increased by $2.5M.
- During the same period our other income streams have increased by only ~$3.61M.
- This has resulted in an average loss of ~$718,000 per year.
- The loss of Math 00100 came a cost of >$1.1M in 2015-16 (continues today)
- These calculations exclude other cost increases (scholarships, grad support, start-up).
- The model of low tuition increases, increased taxes, and diminishing state support is a “loser” unless we can grow credit hours by 2.5-3% annually.

b. Steps we have taken
- For FY 16-17 we cashed in $900K in salary/ fridges benefits dollars, used $975K in cash carry forward to cover grad fee waivers, and reduced undergraduate scholarships and the “Near Miss” research support program by $100K each.
- Our plans for a modest hiring year were thwarted when two chairs resigned and we had to launch searches.
- We added ~$1M of carry forward cash to our Income Shortfall account as “insurance”.
- For FY 17-18 we allowed only essential faculty hires and have done a number of manipulations with cash accounts.
c. Steps we are taking
- Establish a faculty/marketing committee to increase our out-of-state enrollments (income enhancement)
- Continue to emphasize student recruitment and retention (income enhancement)
- Continue to (temporarily) limit new and replacement faculty searches (cost reduction)
- Continue conversations with campus on more equitable taxation structures, especially with regard to the CRF, ESI & SFR taxes ($5,292,602)
- Seek a new look at state appropriation distribution on campus (revenue enhancement)

d. Other income resources
- Kelley school of business has a program fee ($1,175/student/yr.); School of Science has a science fee at $9.83/credit hr. for up to 15 hours (generates $295/student/yr.). Ours is technically not a program fee because its proceeds are targeted to expenses incurred by PREPS. Program fees are allowed only to professional schools and Science (also Liberal Arts) is not a professional school.
- Comparing with school of liberal art, school of science has ~ 60 less faculty (191 vs 250), but more income and much better financial situation.
- Possibly may increase the number of out-of-state/international students – Purdue at WL kept increasing out-of-state students until last year– IUB promises to have >60% students as in-state students – School of Science has ~92% students from within the state.
- Indirect cost currently contributes to a small portion of the school income – its impact to school is small – an advantage comparing to school of medicine – a dollar generated by increased research overhead will have an equal effect as a dollar gained by increasing credit hours
- To make sure the ICR split in collaborative grant applications with other schools is correct – faculty need to ask Mary Harden to ensure a correct split ratio

7. New business
- To discuss “Clinical Professor and Lecturer Ranks” in the next meeting

8. Next meeting
   a. Thursday October 26, 2017, 12:00-1:30 pm, SL 306

9. Adjourn