Minutes of CST Collegial Assembly of March 14, 2012

Dean Hai-Lung Dai called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm.

Approval of minutes
The minutes of October 25, 2011 were approved.

Dean’s report
Dean Dai reported on the budgetary situation facing the college. When he became Dean in January of fiscal year 2007, the college had about 3100 students, of whom about 200 were graduate students, 105 tenured/tenure track faculty, 65 instructional non-tenure track faculty, and 69 non-faculty staff members. The budget was about $26M, that great majority of which represented salaries. In fiscal year 2011, we had about 3900 students, of who 290 were graduate students. The increase in students is about 25%; the increase in faculty is about 15%, and the staff increase is much smaller. The current budget is about $29.3M, an increase of less than 13%. Thus the budget increase has not kept pace with the increase in students. This year we have experienced a budget cut of 4%, and a recission of 1%. The budgetary picture is grim. The university expects an increase in fixed costs of about $38M, and a cut in the state appropriation of $42M, for a total budget gap of $80M. In response to last year’s cut in the appropriation, the university raised tuition by 9%. That is unlikely to happen for the coming year; thus the university expects to face a budget gap of $40M to $50M again. The college is preparing for a 5% cut. However, we will weather the storm. We will not go through the process of warning NTT faculty of possible termination again. We will not reduce the budget so that faculty hiring is affected. There will be no budget-related reductions in teaching staff; any reductions will be based on examination of faculty workload, curricular changes, and other non-budgetary considerations. We intend to continue faculty hiring at the same pace as the previous 5 years. We will continue educational initiatives such as the Undergraduate Research Program, and even expand with increased funding through development efforts. This year, about 80 undergraduates were receiving stipends for research. The URP is helping to develop the problem-solving skills of undergraduates, and is having a positive effect at hiring fairs, as evidenced by Vanguard’s hiring of 22 CST undergraduates. The TUteach program is now in the last year of grant support of about $350K per year. We have an offer of $1M from NIMSI, the parent organization, provided we find matching funds, which will produce about $90K per year, not enough to fund actual costs. Because the program is beneficial to the state by strengthening science education, we will continue TUteach. We will continue to support the college’s research infrastructure through matching funds. The new Science Education and Research Building is on schedule, and the Board-approved funding exceeded our expectations. In 2006, before coming to Temple, the Dean was offered $20M for renovation of Barton Hall; having determined that it was not worth renovating, he offered to return $20M as seed funding for a new building, and the Board pledged $50M. The building was originally envisioned as a dry-lab structure, with plans at one point for several unfinished floors. Eventually the Administration and the Board increased their support, and the estimated cost grew. On Monday, the Board voted approval for $137M for a fully finished building. The college’s task is now to build research funding to increase indirect cost return.

Presentation by University Architect
Dean Dai introduced Margaret Carney, the new University Architect, who came to Temple a year ago from the same position at Case Western Reserve University. She spoke of the complexity of implementing the 20/20 plan, which entails creating a mix of new buildings to blend with existing buildings, while also improving lands and improving the physical environment, supporting the work of the faculty while also providing the resources necessary to compete for students. The new science building (SERB) will replace Barton Hall, which will be taken down to create green space. SERB will adjoin the Engineering Building, and be about the same height as Gladfelter Hall, with interior access to both those buildings. SERB will consist of 8 floors (counting the basement) containing lecture halls, mixed-use spaces, and teaching labs as well as research facilities. Chemical biology research will occupy the heavily-hooded 6th floor; computational science will occupy the 7th floor. SERB is now at the end of the design-drawing stage, and into the construction-drawing stage. By May 2012 digging should begin; completion is expected Spring 2014. A slide show depicted interior features such as state-of-the-art lecture halls, and flexible labs to minimize the need for future changes, and presented views of the building as it will appear to observers from several parts of the campus.

Faculty Senate Steering Committee report
J. Korsh reported that the FSSC had been occupied with review of the Provost’s white paper on restructuring, and on Faculty Senate committee elections. Colleges are to elect representative senators and the FSSC representative by April 1. President Hart has issued today a draft of workload guidelines; faculty members are invited to comment. The Representative Faculty Senate will meet Friday, March 16. Following the Senate approval of recommendations from FSSC on principles for collegial bylaws, it is suggested that departments form committees to elect representatives to form a bylaws committee.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.