Mission

The IUPUI School of Science provides outstanding basic science education for all IUPUI students, education in depth for students in our School, and engages in fundamental and applied research in the physical, biological, mathematical, and psychological sciences in order to increase scientific knowledge and advance the development of the life sciences at IUPUI and in the State of Indiana.

Goals and Objectives

1. Build a Strong and Diverse Faculty

   - Build a strong and diverse faculty
   - Campus Planning Theme: Teaching and Learning, Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity
   - Secondary Goals:
   - Sub Unit: None
   - Time Frame: on-going

Actions taken for 2008-2009:

- Hired 13 new teaching and research faculty based on potential for research excellence (3 in the Department of Biology, 2 in Chemistry and Chemical Biology, 1 in Computer and Information Science, 4 in Mathematical Sciences, and 3 in Psychology). Two new hires were female faculty.
- Hired a full professor in mathematics education funded through the Urban Center for the Advancement of STEM Education (UCASE) to collaborate with the IU School of Education.
- Hired 1 new Senior Lecturer in the area of actuarial science in the Department of Mathematical Sciences.
- Continued collaborated with the IU School of Medicine to create research programs for School of Science faculty and graduate students in the Health Information and Translational Science (HITS) Building.
- Continued financial plan that will permit ongoing hiring of faculty in strategic areas.
- Many new faculty hires came with funding or received external funding shortly after arriving.

Evidence of Progress for 2008-2009:

- The School hired 44 new faculty in the last 5 years who will contribute significantly to the teaching and research missions. The start-up packages for new faculty were competitive with national standards.
- Hired two new chairmen, one in Biology and another in Earth Sciences, who will begin in the upcoming school year.
- External funding has increased by 40% over the previous fiscal year. This is attributable in part to the School's focus on hiring research-intensive faculty with post doctoral experience or who have established research funding.

Publications
Activities planned for 2009-2010:

- Continue to manage financial resources to ensure strong fiscal health.
- Continued strategic planning for hiring and retaining faculty in critical areas across the school.
- Hire an Associate Dean for Research and Graduation Education from within the university who will contribute to the School’s growth in external funding and graduate programs.
- Identify campus resources, external resources and collaborative opportunities for faculty to pursue their research and scholarly activities.
- Continue hiring faculty in areas of strategic need to cover resignations and retirements. New faculty hires will be limited until additional research space becomes available.
- Phase I has been approved for the new Science and Engineering Laboratory Building (SELB), which will be used for research and instructional laboratory space.
- Discussions are ongoing for Phase II of SELB tentatively scheduled to begin two years after Phase I.
- Implement a research bonus plan to encourage external funding to recruit and retain faculty.
- Continue to increase school level support for graduate student funding.

2. Develop Nationally Recognized Undergraduate Programs in Select Areas

1. Maintain and develop undergraduate programs that provide students with the learning skills and knowledge essential for employment and life-long learning.
   
   **Campus Planning Theme:** Teaching and Learning, Best Practices
   
   **Secondary Goals:**
   
   **Sub Unit:**
   
   **Time Frame:** on going

Actions taken for 2008-2009:

We continued to promote and expand new degree programs in areas of demand:

- B.S. in Environmental Science in collaboration with SPEA and the School of Liberal Arts.
- B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies.
- B.S. in biotechnology, in conjunction with four corporate partners (Eli Lilly, Roche Diagnostics, Dow AgroSciences, Baxter Pharmaceutical Solutions), reaffirmed articulation between Ivy Tech Indianapolis Associate in Science program in biotechnology, supporting transferability of credit hours.
- B.S. in Forensic and Investigative Sciences in collaboration with the Schools of Law and Public and Environmental Affairs.
- Combined B.S./B.S. in physics and electrical engineering.
- Began work on developing a new B.S. interdisciplinary program in Neuroscience.

Continue to use and develop innovative pedagogical practices and other educational experiences that promote student learning and engagement

- Just-in-Time Teaching (JITT) in biology, chemistry and physics
- Peer Lead Team Learning (PLTL) in chemistry
- Computer-based testing and homework systems in chemistry, mathematics, physics, and psychology
- Transformation of Psychology B105 (Psychology as a Biological Science)
- Extensive undergraduate involvement in research
- Service learning opportunities

Completed articulation agreements with Ivy Tech covering Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Psychology.
Collaborated with School of Education to establish scholarship opportunities for students pursuing certification to teach
Evidence of Progress for 2008-2009:

Substantial increase in undergraduate enrollment and high student quality.

- Admitted class increase from 465 in Fall 2007 to 586 in Fall 2008
- Enrolled class increase from 215 in Fall 2007 to 263 in Fall 2008
- Mean SAT score of enrolled class of 1139
- Mean High School GPA of enrolled class 3.63

In many cases, evidence is provided by student enrollment and participation.

- Enrollment in our program in forensic and investigative science
- Enrollment in our program environmental sciences
- Enrollment in our double degree programs in physics/engineering.
- Participation in undergraduate research projects
- Student publication of research papers in collaboration with faculty mentors
- Participation in service learning projects

Successful application for Robert Noyce Award (NSF)

Creation of Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellows programs

Activities planned for 2009-2010:

Continue to develop new programs and educational methods that attract students in areas of high need and promote learning and engagement

- B.S./M.S. 5 year program in physics/electrical engineering
- Develop cooperative education opportunities for science students interested in gaining experience in industry before graduation
- Improve capstone experiences
- Promote Interdisciplinary Studies and Biotechnology programs to increase enrollment
- Work with Ivy Tech to promote articulated degree programs
- B.S./M.S. 5 year program in forensic and investigative sciences

Expand opportunities for science students to pursue careers in secondary education, including 4-year programs leading to a Baccalaureate degree and licensure as a secondary school teacher in biology, chemistry, Earth science, mathematics, and physics.

☐ 2. Increase overall retention and graduation rates by 10%.

Campus Planning Theme: Teaching and Learning
Secondary Goals:
Sub Unit: None
Time Frame: 2002-2006
Actions taken for 2008-2009:

- All the actions in Objective 1
- Supported undergraduate research students financially, including students in the Diversity Scholars Research Program
- Enhanced and expanded activities of the Math Assistance Center (MAC)
- Enhanced and expanded the Chemistry Resource Center (CRC)
- Expanded mentoring in Psychology B104
- Hired several new advisors (Dean's office, psychology, biology)
- Closer ties with University College counselors
- Enhanced scholarship support (Dean's Beginning and Continuing scholars, health and life science scholarships, scholarships for secondary education candidates)
- Recognized students who have performed well in gateway science and math courses, regardless of school (the SOS "A" Convocation)
- Continued to improve support for Women in Science House (increased subsidy, new RA)
- Support for student organizations, including the seven departmental clubs, and the Psi Chi Honor Society
- Psychology peer-advising office
- Continued expanded communications with late and unregistered students

Evidence of Progress for 2008-2009:

- 47% increase in baccalaureate degrees conferred since 03-04
- Women in Science House fully occupied, with 40% of the rooms occupied by returning students
- Almost perfect retention of graduation of Dean's Scholarship awardees (>90%)
- Upward trajectory in retention rates (all categories)

Activities planned for 2009-2010:

- All the actions mentioned above
- Continue to expand MAC, Chemistry Resource Center, Psychology mentoring, and other supplemental instruction.
- Proactive efforts to reenroll students who have "stopped out."
- Continue to expand opportunities for students to work on campus.
- Work with campus on creation of the Honors College
- Work with campus partners to implement the RISE initiative.
- Continue to focus on reducing DFW rates in courses with high attrition.
- Initiate use of alumni mentor network.
- Creation of a Biology mentoring office located in Taylor Hall, second floor.

3. Gain external recognition for our undergraduate programs

Campus Planning Theme: Teaching and Learning

Secondary Goals:
Sub Unit: None
Time Frame: Ongoing

Actions taken for 2008-2009:
• Enhanced connections with schools
• Enhanced connections with admissions office
• Continued to sponsor events involving students in K-12 and teachers: High School Mathematics Contest, Genetic Update Conference, High School teachers conferences in psychology and forensic science
• Created new High School Programming Contest
• Began placing graduate students in K12 schools under NSF funded GK12 program
• Sought internal and external funding for new and continuing programs
• Began major upgrade of school web site
• Outreach activities associated with individual departments, centers and programs, e.g., the Center for Earth and Environmental Science

Evidence of Progress for 2008-2009:

• Undergraduate enrollment up 26% in 5 years
• NSF funded GK12 program
• High participation in High school math contest, programming contest
• Forensic science for HS teachers conference well attended, popular
• NIH Support for Bridges to the Baccalaureate program

Activities planned for 2009-2010:

• Same as above actions
• Capitalize on IUPUI as the place to study a wide range of health-related professions
• Expand GK12 program placing graduate students in K12 classrooms.
• Work with admissions and other campus offices in support of enrollment shaping initiative.
• Presentations to business and corporate groups, schools, and others
• Revitalize Dean’s advisory committee
• Complete upgrade of school web site
• Acquire data on student success in job search and graduate/professional admissions

4. Increase diversity of undergraduate student body and faculty

Campus Planning Theme: Teaching and Learning, Campus Climate for Diversity

Secondary Goals:
Sub Unit: None
Time Frame: 2002-2006

Actions taken for 2008-2009:

• Continue to support and participate in the Diversity Research Scholars Program (DSRP)
• Continue to support and participate in the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program
• Continue to support and participate in the McNair Scholars program
• Expand support for and programs associated with Women in Science House (WIS)
• Created diversity council, began creation of diversity plan

Evidence of Progress for 2008-2009:
Evidence of Progress for 2008-2009:

- CTE awards for Women in Science and Diversity Scholars Research Program
- Received Bridges to the Baccalaureate grant from NIH
- Minority representation increased from 15% to 18% over last 5 years

Activities planned for 2009-2010:

- Continue above actions
- Complete diversity action plan
- Collaborate with Ivy Tech to expand transfer of minority students in the life sciences (Bridges to Baccalaureate program)
- Apply for NSF funding under S-STEM program supporting scholarships aimed at increasing diversity among science and math majors
- Begin collaboration with the Norman Brown Diversity and Leadership Scholars Program, specifically with seeking graduate student mentorship of undergraduate students.
- Recruitment strategies were developed to support student recruitment.

5. Revisioning Student Services in Science: Creation of the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Student Affairs

Campus Planning Theme: Teaching and Learning

Secondary Goals:

Sub Unit:

Time Frame: on going

Actions taken for 2008-2009:

- Implemented Science Program Fee for undergraduate science majors to support the creation of the Office of Student Affairs.
- Planned shared office space with the Math Assistance Center (MAC). (The MAC and Office of Career Development Services will be located in the basement of Taylor Hall in Fall 2010.)
- Began updating the Science Careers website for posting jobs and internships for current students and alumni.
- Recruitment strategies were developed to support student recruitment.

Evidence of Progress for 2008-2009:

- Recruitment marketing pieces were developed and will be sent monthly beginning Fall 2009 for the 2010 direct admits.
- New staff positions were created for the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Career Development Services.
- Began participation with Utalk, software purchased by the Office of Enrollment Services to assist with recruitment efforts.

Activities planned for 2009-2010:

- Aggressively market to prospective students, working in collaboration with Departments, by mailing various marketing pieces monthly to the 2010 direct admit applicants. Continue to develop new and innovative marketing
3. Development of Nationally Recognized Research and Graduate Programs

1. Develop and expand academic programs of high scientific and national significance that build on current strengths

**Campus Planning Theme:** Teaching and Learning, Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity

**Secondary Goals:**

- Teaching and Learning
- Research
- Scholarship
- Creative Activity

**Sub Unit:** None

**Time Frame:** Ongoing

**Actions taken for 2008-2009:**

- Continued Centers of Excellence in strategic areas (Center for Excellence in Biocomputing, Center for Mathematical Biosciences, Center for Visualization and Imaging, Center for Nanoscale Imaging, Center for Evidence-Based Psychiatric Practices, Center for Earth and Environmental Sciences, Center for Regenerative Biology, Center for Assertive Community Treatment, Center for Membrane Biosciences, Center for Urban Health, and the Center for Integrated Nanosystems Development Institute).
- Earth Sciences Ph.D. Program has been approved.
- Ongoing meetings with academic counterparts and graduate deans at Purdue West Lafayette to move toward greater autonomy of graduate programs.

**Evidence of Progress for 2008-2009:**

- Core research facilities have been funded.
- Continued renovations of buildings to modernize and increase classroom space, teaching laboratories, and research laboratories.
- Hired new faculty, all of whom are research-active and teach undergraduate and graduate courses.

**Activities planned for 2009-2010:**

- Ongoing discussions with administration at Purdue West Lafayette and the Indiana Commission on Higher Education to increase autonomy of graduate programs.
- Continue to safeguard financial resources to allow ongoing expansion of faculty and programs.
- Revisit articulation between Science and Kelley School of Business regarding dual M.S. and M.B.A. degree programs.
- Continue to identify and forecast national research trends as they impact graduate training and employment.
2. Increase annualized external funding for research

Campus Planning Theme: Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity
Secondary Goals:
Sub Unit: None
Time Frame: Ongoing

Actions taken for 2008-2009:

- Identified emerging research directions and used existing strengths to capitalize on them
- Hired several new faculty; are research-active and have existing external funding or have potential to secure external funding
- Used centers of excellence and multidisciplinary activities as a catalyst to increase external funding
- Continued policy of using indirect cost recovery to incentivize faculty efforts, increase external funding, and enhance graduate student support

Evidence of Progress for 2008-2009:

- Maintained steady external funding for the 2008-2009 fiscal year with a trend toward a substantial increase in funding between July and September 2009.
- An increase of 11% in submitted proposals (155 to 172) from the 2007-08 to the 2008-09 fiscal year.

Activities planned for 2009-2010:

- Continue to focus on recruiting quality faculty hires with existing funding or with potential to become independently funded.
- Effectively mentor new faculty in grant writing to increase numbers of applications for external funding.
- Build the office of External Development and increase collaboration with the IU Foundation to identify foundation, corporate and other non-governmental sources for research and funding support.
- Identify long-term strategies to expand external funding of research centers.
- Plan for additional research space in new building that will permit expansion of research programs and external funding.

3. Expand and improve research and graduate education

Campus Planning Theme: Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity
Secondary Goals:
Sub Unit: None
Time Frame: Ongoing

Actions taken for 2008-2009:

- All items in sections 1 and 2
- Expanded recruitment to graduate programs
- Sought external funding for graduate education
Evidence of Progress for 2008-2009:

- Graduate degrees conferred have increased by 76% over 5 years (from 98 to 172).
- Six signature centers funded with Science faculty as PIs. Including significant funding for graduate student support.
- Faculty and research from mathematics and computer science have occupied space in the HITS building leased from the IUSM.
- New GAANN proposals were submitted.
- Continued strong publication record by faculty and graduate students.
- Graduate Office funded two Teaching Assistants through a new program.

Activities planned for 2009-2010:

- All items in sections 1 and 2
- Make graduate student funding available to departments earlier, so that funding is known before offers must be made to prospective students.
- Continue to work with the Graduate School and upper-level administration to seek permanent budget lines for TA stipends.
- Working to increase graduate student support (through indirect cost recovery, additional TA stipends, and RIF grants proposal) and standardize stipends across all Departments.
- Continue and seek new areas for collaboration with the IU School of Medicine on use of research space, joint hires and other strategic areas.
- Encourage departments to submit GAANN proposals.
- Planning for new building to incorporate research space, a modern vivarium, and office for research faculty, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.
- Ongoing review of the use of space and research infrastructure by the research centers in the School.
- Continue to expand research cores and centers, and develop administration of a space allocation policy for efficient use of space for research facilities.
- Four signature centers continue to receive funding from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. One additional Center was approved for continued "signature center" status for five years.

4. Enhance External Development Marketing / Public Relations / Community Outreach

1. Marketing / Public Relations / Community Outreach

   Campus Planning Theme: Civic Engagement

   Secondary Goals:

   Sub Unit: None

   Time Frame: Ongoing

Actions taken for 2008-2009:

To meet the marketing, public relations and special event needs of the School’s student recruitment, alumni, development and general initiative:

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<--[!-supportLists]--> • <--[!-endiff]-->Worked with external partners: PIVOT Marketing, Cox Zimmerman Public Relations, Jill Meadows Consulting, Cindy Fox Aisen, Brian Drumm and John Gentry Photography to establish and implement marketing initiatives.

<--[!-supportLists]--> • <--[!-endiff]-->Hired the School’s first full time Director of Marketing and Public Relations and Web Specialist.
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Evidence of Progress for 2008-2009:

- Underwent branding initiative through PIVOT Marketing
- Created the School’s first ever International Marketing Recruitment piece, designed for undergraduate use.
- Created Graduate recruiting pieces for the Departments of Chemistry and Psychology
- Created Undergraduate recruiting pieces for the Departments of Psychology, Computer Science and Biology, as well a school wide undergraduate piece
- Integrated marketing and publicity efforts into ongoing K-12 student outreach and recruitment activities including: the Biology Department’s Genetics Conference, the Department of Psychology neuroscience Brian Bee, the Department of Mathematics partnership with the International Math Bee and the Department of Computer Science’s Computer Science Day Contest.
- Audited remaining K-12 outreach efforts at the department level and branded them under the Momentum: Advancing Scientific Minds initiative on the School of Science website
- Launched new website for the School of Science
- Launched Facebook and Twitter presence for the School of Science
- Created a photography database for the school in ZenPhoto
- Created web template for conference use by researchers in school
- Created web template for accepting online RSVPs through school of science website

For Special Events: integrated a common visual theme throughout the event, improved signage and improved event flow for School of Science Honors Ceremony; launched Science on Tap, a community and alumni outreach event; integrated new faculty into the Emeritus Faculty Brunch.

Activities planned for 2009-2010:

- Continue research into School of Science brand, and improve definition of goals of marketing and public relations campaigns
- Create comprehensive marketing plan based on research for student recruitment activities, outreach activities, and fundraising activities of the school
- Launch the design and begin implementation for new web templates and sites for programs and events of the school
- Increase publicity which highlights student and research excellence in the school, with a focus on local markets (within the state of Indiana).
- Hire a Communications Writer to take over writing services currently being outsourced.
- Integrate strategic assessment into activities of the marketing office.

2. Development

Campus Planning Theme: Civic Engagement

Secondary Goals:
Sub Unit: None
Time Frame: Ongoing

Actions taken for 2008-2009:
Evidence of Progress for 2008-2009:

- Recruited committee of seven community leaders to assist school with setting campaign goals and connecting school with possible donors or interested community members.
- Supplemented IUF end of year mailing with internal direct mail drop
- Began process for hiring two development director positions. As of June 30th final interviews had been held with candidates.

Activities planned for 2009-2010:

- Hire a Director of Development, Director of Development and Alumni Relations and a Development Assistant to staff the office of development.
- Finalize Case statement for School of Science in advance of public phase of campaign launch, October 2010
- Through new officers enhance the work of the annual fund, the major gifts office and the planned gifts office to meet campaign goals and annual campaign targets.

3. Alumni Programming

Campus Planning Theme: Civic Engagement
Secondary Goals:
Sub Unit: None
Time Frame: Ongoing

Actions taken for 2008-2009:

- Launched a young alumni group subcommittee of the board. Used Young Alumni Group as a way to engage recent graduates in alumni activities, providing leadership and social opportunities for group
- Featured alumni stories on website – both for recent graduates and more established alumni
- Continued ongoing alumni programming in partnership with alumni association on IUPUI campus
- Reformat current alumni board to increase quality of volunteer experience

Evidence of Progress for 2008-2009:

- Recruited 12 new members to alumni group, including 10 through summer mailing to new graduates
Activities planned for 2009-2010:

- Recruit members to three main alumni groups: Alumni Board, Young Alumni Group, Dean’s Executive Alumni Group
- Expand Science on Tap activities to serve both alumni and development needs.
- Expand networking through internet activities such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter
- Continued use of alumni profile stories in online and print publications.
- Hire Director of Development and Alumni Affairs to oversee alumni and volunteer programming of the school 50% time.

5. Strategic Planning

Strategic Plans for the School of Science

Campus Planning Theme: Best Practices

Secondary Goals:

Sub Unit:

Time Frame:

Actions taken for 2008-2009:

The faculty and administration continue to implement plans developed during 2008 with new leadership in the School’s Dean’s Office.

- Actively recruited 12 new faculty across the School, many who brought with them external funding or who show promise to receive external funding.
- Implemented a new student program fee to support a student development and career center in the School.

Evidence of Progress for 2008-2009:

- The School of Science is now on firm financial footing, with improved performance in undergraduate and graduate
education and research.
- Continued increase in undergraduate enrollment both in terms of quality (evidenced by increased average SAT scores and high school class rank) and number, with increases in undergraduate credit hours.
- Continued increase in number of graduate students.
- Reorganization of the academic organizational structure of the Dean’s Office.

Activities planned for 2009-2010:

The faculty and administration will continue to implement plans developed during 2008.

- Begin to build an adequate support staff in several areas of the School.
- Continue to build upon the signature centers, with two new centers recently funded: the Center for Urban Health and the Center on Integrated Nanosystems Development Institute. The Center for Earth and Environmental Sciences has been reapproved.
- Strengthen targeted recruitment efforts to increase quality, quantity and diversity of full-time students.
- Work with faculty and other units on campus to improve the curriculum, with a particular focus on the development of new honors courses and curriculum.
- Support academic advisor training.
- Significantly increase alumni and community philanthropic support.
- Branding the School of Science as a school of choice for high-ability students who seek a quality undergraduate and graduate education in science.

Fiscal Health

Reallocation Plan

Other Question(s)

1) How are you dealing with the projected base budget reductions for 2009-10 and 2010-11?

- How will the projected base reductions affect your ability to deliver your current level of services to students and faculty? Will some planned initiatives related to teaching and learning, research and scholarship, and civic engagement have to be delayed or terminated?
- If your unit experienced enrollment increases during the Summer II and/or fall terms, how have you used the additional revenue?

State base funding for the School of Science has steadily declined over the past decade, and it now accounts for about 11% of the school’s total income. If the projected base budget reduction is distributed proportionally among units, and if there is no increase in assessment, Science will try to offset the projected base budget reduction and maintain its current level of operation with tuition revenue generated by the anticipated rise in our credit hours. However, we will very likely have to slow down our effort to rebuild our faculty and to expand it to meet the needs of our rising enrollment, especially in Biology and Chemistry. This is a very significant concern.

As we have done in the past two years, we will use the additional revenue to (1) fund new faculty start-up costs; (2) fund internal proposals from Science faculty to improve or replace some of the school’s out-dated core equipment or facilities that would benefit multiple departments or multiple investigators, especially newly hired and funded faculty; (3) build up a reserve for the immediate renovation or repurposing of some of the existing space in SL and LD that would be freed up when the new Science–Engineering Research Complex (SERC) comes on line.

2) To achieve the campus goal of doubling the numbers of undergraduate students completing baccalaureate degrees, and to increase the number graduating in four years, what changes have you implemented or planned to implement in course scheduling, curriculum, student support etc.?
All seven departments in Science are already offering a broad range of courses during both summer sessions to ensure that our majors as well as students from other schools will have the opportunity to make academic progress during the summer. To the extent our continuing lack of instructional laboratory space would permit (see our answer to Question 3 below), every department is monitoring and refining its course scheduling on a continuous basis to ensure that its offerings are meeting student demand, and that there will be no chokepoint that would impede student progress.

Using the new Science program fee, we are in the process of setting up a new Office of Student Services that will (1) accelerate the recruitment of high-ability students; (2) provide better services—such as advising and career counseling—to increase the retention and graduation rates; (3) develop more internships, externships, and research opportunities for our undergraduates.

On the curriculum front, our faculty submitted a proposal last fall to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) to support transformative changes in undergraduate science education. There is also an ongoing discussion among our faculty on the development of new interdisciplinary undergraduate degree programs that can leverage the collective academic strengths of as many departments as possible—for example, neuroscience and computational science. All these efforts are aimed at making our academic programs more attractive to high-ability and serious-minded undergraduates, and could help attract more science majors and improve our four-year graduation rate long-term.

3) Do you currently have

- school-based space and
- centrally-scheduled space

...to support an increase in credit hours without a significant investment? Are you investigating methods to use space more effectively
  a. on Fridays and weekends?
  b. with online/hybrid/distance education course offerings?
  c. by developing larger classrooms?

The simple answer to the above question is NO. Space, or more specifically school-based laboratory space, continues to be the single biggest roadblock to the growth of our academic programs. We have absolutely “maxed out” on our ability (irrespective of hours of the day, or days of the week) to offer more lab sections in almost all the foundational courses in Biology and Chemistry. Courses requiring laboratory work cannot be easily adapted to an online or distant education format. This in turn has resulted in long wait-lists every semester for many of these courses.

The situation with Chemistry will improve beginning Spring 2010 after we repurposed some space in LD and turned it into an instructional lab for organic chemistry. In the long run, the proposed Science-Engineering Research Complex (SERC), once it comes on one, will enable us to renovate and repurpose of some of the existing space in SL and LD for instructional use.

4) What are your priorities for student technology support, and what progress has been made as you have worked with UITS staff this year to implement your technology plans?

Using income from student technology fees, the School of Science has developed and maintained a testing center that serves a large number of students, both within and outside the school, taking introductory courses in psychology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics. Now that UITS has taken over the administration of the student technology fees, we are in negotiation with UITS to ensure that there will continue to be adequate support for the center and that students across our campus will be well served by the center.

We have also engaged UITS in a discussion on the development of a Student Advising Scheduling System that we believe could greatly facilitate communication between students and their advisors. This web-based system would enable an advisor (or faculty member) to publish his or her availability (i.e., a block of time on his or her calendar) so that a student can make an appointment conveniently online. The student’s request will then be automatically entered into Microsoft Outlook or any other calendar software that the advisor is using. After the appointment, the system would send a request to the student to fill out a quick multiple-choice survey (plus room for comments). The responses from students could then be included in a database that is accessible to, say, only the department chair or dean. The information can be used for
be included in a database that is accessible to, say, only the department chair or dean. The information can be used for performance assessment or for developing ways to improve our advising effort.