Provost’s News

We open the month of December with the combination of trepidation about how much needs to be done before graduation and relief that another semester is almost behind us. Regardless of the time in the academic cycle, a subject that is always important to the campus is faculty hiring. In the spring of 2011, Academic Affairs set faculty hiring as its top priority and for each hiring cycle since that time, we have supported between 30 and 40 searches. We are now in our fourth year of this hiring program and it has produced a range of significant positive outcomes: we opened the fall 2014 semester with 285 FTE in faculty compared to 246 in Fall 2011, this program has welcomed 57 new tenure line faculty and 33 new teaching faculty to the campus. The impact of these faculty hires is measurable. We are stronger as an institution due to breadth, depth, and overall quality that the new faculty bring to us.

With the searches underway for this year (Current Hiring Program), we expect to open the fall semester 2015, with over 300 faculty. We all know that this level of hiring is very costly in terms of faculty commitment to the search process, and I want to thank all faculty who have actively engaged in our search activities over the past few years. We have added great new faculty to the system who will lead and sustain the institution for years to come. My hope is that, based on your efforts this year, that we can welcome another new and great class of faculty to the campus next year.

Faculty Achievements

Associate Professor Neil Sullivan (ME) The Colorado School of Mines Colorado Fuel Cell Center hosted the first public demonstration of IEP Technology’s Geothermic Fuel Cell earlier this fall. Dr. Neal Sullivan (Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering) is the Director of the Center. (For more information)

Assistant Professor Jenifer Braley (CH), is among 35 scientists from across the nation to receive significant funding for research as part of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Early Career Research Program. (For more information)

Teaching Associate Professor Linda Battalora (PE) presented her research on bone density and fracture risk in HIV-infected adults at the Joint Session of the 14th European AIDS Conference and the 15th International Workshop on Co-morbidities and Adverse Drug Reactions in HIV, in October 2013 in Brussels. (For more information)
Mines by the Numbers

For the Spring 2014 semester, a new online student course evaluation system was implemented. There was an increase in the overall return rate of 7% from Spring 2013 and an increase of 8.6% from Fall 2013. As of today the rate of return for Fall 2014 is 55%. Please remind your students to fill out their evaluations before the system closes on December 5th. Despite these promising returns, there have been questions raised regarding the online evaluations. For additional information about the new system please see: http://inside.mines.edu/ACAD-Evaluations.

What’s Happening

**CASE Dean Search Update:** The search committee for the new CASE Dean will begin reviewing applications on January 15. To date, we are pleased to report that we have received 20 applications. If you are aware of qualified candidates, please encourage them to apply, or please provide the search committee chair (Tom Boyd) contact information and he will reach out to them. The position description and application requirements may be found at: CASE Dean Search Link.

**Registrar's Office Update:** The Registrar’s office has been busy this Fall! In addition to registering more than 4,500 students in one week, and supporting alumni, parents, faculty and staff with everyday university business, we have been busy implementing new systems to improve our business processes and workflows. Here is an overview:

1. GEODE Schedule Planner rolled out to our students and faculty advisors as a tool to generate class schedules, then integrate into Banner registration.
2. After a successful implementation of the Leepfrog Technologies catalog product for the CSM Bulletin, we introduced their Course Information Management tool. This eliminates the need for over 6 different forms and gives faculty a one stop location for updating curriculum.
3. We are also working on the Leepfrog "Class" software tool now for departments, colleges, and class schedulers. This is a visual tool that allows schedulers to more easily see and schedule their class offerings, better understand class meeting patterns, easily juggle classes during peak times, and manage course conflicts.
4. We are the third university in the country to implement PDF diplomas for students.
View details of these initiatives and an update regarding future initiatives. You may contact the Registrar's Office at registrar@mines.edu or at 303-273-3200.

Insurance Requirement for TAs and RAs: Starting in the Spring semester, we will require, unless students explicitly opted out, all TA and RA contracts to provide the cost of student health insurance coverage. The vast majority of contracts already provide this. The new requirement is a result of our efforts to comply with PPACA (Obamacare). In discussions with the Faculty Senate, Deans, and GSG, we agreed to require that the cost of student health insurance coverage be provided as a part of the contract. This contrasts with many other institutions that have chosen to limit and track the working hours of students to ensure hours do not reach the PPACA threshold. We believe this decision is in the best interest of our students and our institution.

TA budgets for the departments involved are being adjusted appropriately. Short term support for students on RA contracts that did not provide insurance support in the fall is being provided by the Office of Graduate Studies.

**CSM Mission**

Education and research in engineering and science to solve the world’s challenges related to the earth, energy and the environment

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