Provost’s News

Welcome back from Spring Break. We are now a mere six weeks away from the end of the spring semester and we all know that the end of the spring semester is an exceptionally busy time for all of us on campus.

Last year we initiated the establishment of the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning as an initiative that is part of the strategic plan. The intent for the Center is to directly support excellence in pedagogy, to promote active learning instruction where appropriate, and to support overall instructional activity across campus. I am pleased to announce that we have hired Dr. Sam Spiegel as the inaugural director of the Center and that he will join us on April 1st. After carefully considering inputs from the campus, Dr. Spiegel was strongly recommended by the search committee (thanks to C. Terry, T. Boyd, K. Moore, M. Erickson, T. Young, K. Johnson, R. Falconer). They note that he “presented the desired array of competencies and experience necessary to effectively establish and lead the CITL”. Dr. Spiegel comes to us from the University of Pittsburgh where he is both the Chair of the Disciplinary Literacy in Science Team at the Institute for Learning (IFL) and Associate Director of Outreach and Development for the Swanson School of Engineering’s Education Research Center at the University of Pittsburgh. Please stop by his office at your convenience (CTLM 251) and welcome him to the campus. See the “What’s Happening” section below for additional information about the CITL.

During the spring semester, the Provost’s office has been holding informal “coffees” with small faculty groups. These informal gatherings provide faculty with a venue for expressing their views on the campus and its direction as well as providing an open discussion forum between faculty and administration. We have organized these discussions around subject areas, which are: Research and Teaching, Promotion and Tenure, and Faculty Mentoring. Please sign up for one or more of these gatherings by Thursday, April 2nd.
Faculty Achievements

Assistant Professor Dr. Kathleen Smits (CEE) has received a 2015 NSF CAREER Award. The grant will support her research, “Advancing the science and education of land surface-atmosphere interactions: Interweaving multiscale experimental and modeling approaches for Land Surface Models (LSM) and experiential learning.”
(Read more)

Professor Dr. Graham Davis (EB) was elected Rapporteur at the OECD Conference on Trade in Raw Materials held at OECD Headquarters in Paris on Nov. 3. The conference was aimed at reducing export restrictions on raw materials. Mines was the only university to be invited to participate.

Mines by the Numbers

Academic Space Additions to the Campus (2011-2017)

The charts above show significant additions to the academic campus infrastructure starting in 2011. The GRL annex is wholly funded by the institution and the Coorstek Center is funded with a combination of an historic donor gift, Colorado state support, and institutional funds. The Coorstek Center will be built on the current site of Meyer hall which is currently a 48,000 square foot facility.
What's Happening

Mines' Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning

In January, Academic Affairs named two interim directors (Gus Greivel and Pat Kohl) to lay the foundation for Mines' Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, or CITL. Establishing such a center need not be done from scratch – many other centers of similar scope exist at other institutions. Early this semester, CITL interviewed representatives of several similar centers to learn about their roles and their resource models. These interviews have already begun to steer plans for our own CITL.

At the same time, CITL conducted a survey of the faculty with the objectives of assessing current activities in teaching and learning at Mines, creating a database of existing activities and resources at Mines, and gauging faculty interest in teaching and learning professional development activities. Participation in this survey was very strong and demonstrated great faculty interest in the continued improvement of the learning environment on campus. Based on the expressed interest, Academic Affairs and CITL are organizing a set of faculty workshops to be held this summer. We anticipate offering workshops on the scholarship of teaching and learning as well as the creation of online videos for instruction.

The campus has seen significant capital development in recent years, and the near future will be no different. With new classroom space coming online in Alderson, CoorsTek and elsewhere, CITL has been working with the faculty to structure that space in such a way as to foster and support innovative teaching. Faculty are encouraged to continue expressing their classroom space needs and wants to CITL personnel.

As part of its long-term mission, CITL will facilitate a variety of teaching-related faculty development activities. Personal consultations are already available on request. In the near future, expect to hear about scheduled speakers, workshops, and external visitors of potential interest to arrive this spring and summer.

Dr. Sam Spiegel, Director of the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning.
(Picture on the right)

Mines' Vision

Mines will be the premier institution, based on the impact of its graduates and research programs, in science and engineering relating to the Earth, Energy and Environment.