Provost's News

Spring Break is next week and, in spite of the snow, it formally announces that the last half of the spring semester is upon us. The last half of any semester is busy for faculty and students; for spring, it is especially busy because we must complete a range of activities for the academic year. One of the many activities and an important part of “completing” the year is finishing the faculty searches that are underway.

As we all know, we have sponsored a multitude of searches over the past four years and certainly some parts of the campus are suffering from “search fatigue.” We currently have 29 searches that remain open; the implication is that if we are to complete these searches, there will be in the scale of 75 prospective faculty visits to campus in the coming weeks. This in turn means that faculty in affected departments will find themselves attending interview seminars, participating in formal interviews, evaluating candidates, and presenting the campus to potential new faculty members.

From a Provost perspective, faculty hiring is one of the most important things that we do; a successful faculty hire sets a positive course for the receiving department for years to come. Faculty engagement in this process is critical; the faculty need to participate both as evaluators and as campus ambassadors in interviews. Faculty need to careful and thoughtfully voice their views, consistent with the process used in their department, on the candidates that have been interviewed. In short, we all know that the end of the spring is extremely busy and we all know that faculty hiring is critically important. So, my request to the faculty at large is to please engage appropriately in the selection of our new members of the campus. Thank you all for helping with the academic year 2014-2015 hiring program.

Faculty Achievements

Congratulations to Professor Dr. Moises Carreon, Coors Developmental Chair in CBE, who has won the 2014 Innovator award from the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE).

Dr. Terri Hogue (CEE) has been reelected as the Secretary of the AGU Hydrology Section for 2015-2016. “The Hydrology Section is one of eleven in the American Geophysical Union. Its members are concerned with the cycling of continental water (solid, liquid and vapor) at all scales, and with physical, chemical and biological processes driven by that cycling.”
Mines by the Numbers

Number of Faculty Searches Supported by Academic Affairs

The chart to the right shows the number of faculty searches supported by Academic Affairs for faculty by year. In the fall of 2008, we had 232 faculty; we opened fall 2014 with approximately 287 faculty, and we hope to open the fall of 2015 with over 300 faculty on the campus.

What’s Happening

Visiting Committees

During the spring of 2015 we will host a total of four Departmental Visiting Committees. The Departments of Geology and Geological Engineering and Economics and Business have completed their visits. The Departments of Geophysics and Mining Engineering will host Visiting Committees in the coming weeks. Visiting Committees are used to provide us with an external review of departments or a college. They provide us with feedback from well-respected experts on the quality of our degree programs and research productivity. Ideally, each department or college hosts a visit on campus every three years. We want to thank all the faculty and staff in these departments for the hard work and time required to make this visits successful.

Dr. Chuck Stone and the REU Program

We would like to congratulate Dr. Chuck Stone (PH) for receiving an NSF grant to continue running the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. His contributions and support to this program at Mines have been invaluable. The REU program has positively impacted our graduate programs by increasing the pool of quality candidates for graduate school.

Mines’ Mission

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