Provost's News

Summer has been busy with teaching, research, course preparation, and ideally, some time for relaxing and recharging in anticipation of the upcoming academic year. The campus is excited to have President Johnson join us and is looking forward to welcoming another incoming class of new students and faculty.

I want to provide an update regarding Faculty Conference, as this Fall's event (on August 24, 1:00PM in Coolbaugh 209) will differ from past years' events. The focus of much of this year's Faculty Conference will be related to discussion of eleven Executive Council Initiatives (many of which were announced in May) in support of the Strategic Plan. These initiatives include:

- **Active Learning and Technology**: Defining the nature, role, extent of, and support for active learning and technology on the campus.
- **Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering**: Evaluating how best to proceed with the Interdisciplinary Engineering Degree.
- **Biology at Mines**: Defining our strategic intent.
- **Defining our First and Second Year Experience**: How to make our core curriculum distinctive?
- **Distinction in the Mines Undergraduate Degree Programs**: Defining how our undergraduate degree programs are or should be distinctive.
- **The Faculty Senate Family Friendly Campus Proposal**: Initial thoughts from an administrative review.
- **Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs**: Evaluating and making recommendations related to program management, support and promotion.
- **The Research Enterprise**: Defining how to better grow and support research.
- **Short Course and Certificate Program Activity**: Proposing revenue and reputation enhancements.
- **Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants**: Rationalizing and prioritizing our needs related to graduate student and classroom instructional support.
- **Undergraduate Admissions**: Defining our strategic intent for our undergraduate admissions activities.

In addition to the topics listed above, the Faculty Senate may also sponsor a few breakout sessions.
Over the summer, working groups have been exploring each of these initiatives and are preparing interim reports for distribution to the campus community. These reports will summarize each committee’s membership, relationship to the strategic plan, and their progress toward formulating a concrete list of recommendations. We will use the Faculty Conference as an important way of collecting broad faculty input on these topics. As a part of Faculty Conference, we will include two time slots for breakout sessions so that faculty can voice their input on issues that are important to them. Faculty will be invited to provide feedback regarding:

1. Which comments/observations/recommendations in the committee report do you find compelling and worthy of further consideration? Why?
2. Which comments/observations/recommendations in the committee report do you not find compelling? Why not?
3. What, if anything, is missing from the committee report? That is, what challenges, opportunities, or other factors should the committee consider as work on these initiatives continues?

We will compile all of the feedback from these faculty discussions and post the comments and suggestions on the Academic Affairs website. Your thoughtful reading of the interim report (which you will receive in mid-August) is greatly appreciated and we look forward to receiving significant input from the faculty on this list of topics. We will send you a detailed agenda for Faculty Conference in mid-August. Until then, please take time to enjoy the remainder of the summer and, as always, thank you for all that you do for Mines.

Mines’ 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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