Provost’s News

All of us at Mines are very aware of the faculty hiring program started in 2011 and the changes that this program has brought to us. We are richer in faculty, have appropriately broadened our activity and we now support a younger faculty demographic. We have in a few short years transitioned to a campus with a significant fraction of the faculty in the tenure pipeline and this brings with it questions over pathways to success for the untenured faculty, mentoring, university expectations surrounding tenure and/or promotion, and the tenure and promotion process itself.

Long term residents of the campus can recall the move to a University Promotion and Tenure Committee (led by Faculty Senate President Dennis Ready in 2000) and the regularization of application materials and expectations in 2004 led by Tissa Illangasekare. These efforts are now over a decade old and we have evolved significantly as a university. President Johnson, as a signature effort to ensure the long term health of the institution, has asked that we once again consider our tenure and promotion expectations and process to make sure that they reflect Mines’ core values, aspirations, and current structure. The logic behind this is irrefutable. One of the keys to continued success for Mines and the successful professional development of its faculty is a clear set of promotion and tenure expectations and a transparent process. It is therefore time again that we carefully consider tenure and promotion from the perspective of both expectations and the process itself.

The President’s office, Academic Affairs, and the Faculty Senate are currently starting an effort, using an ad-hoc committee of senior faculty, to update the faculty handbook and Academic Affairs procedures manual in a way that more carefully conveys the expectations surrounding tenure. Over the course of the fall semester, we will ask for feedback from, and report to, the faculty on this effort.

As always, thanks to all for all that you do for Mines!
Faculty Achievements

Teaching Professor, Vince Kuo, (PH) At the American Association of Physics Teachers meeting, held July 25-30 in College Park, MD, Dr. Kuo served as the incoming chair of the Committee on Physics in Undergraduate Education.

Teaching Associate Professor, Deb Carney (AMS) (in collaboration with Rebecca Swanson), presented a poster titled “Society for Women in Mathematics at Mines” at the MAA MathFest of the Mathematical Association of America, from August 5-8, 2015, in Washington, DC.

Teaching Associate Professor, Susan Reynolds (CEE) participated in the PKAL Leadership Institute for a week in July 2015, in Crestone, CO. The institute has been uniquely designed to provide an opportunity for faculty to develop leadership capacity in acting as an agent of change in transformation of STEM higher education.

Teaching Associate Professor, Jennifer Strong (AMS) attended The NETI (National Effective Teaching Institute) three-day workshop which covers topics such as course planning, lecturing, inductive teaching, active learning, and assessment of learning. Jennifer said: “It was enlightening and enriching to learn from such a dedicated educator, (Dr. Richard Felder), not just on how to improve teaching, but also how to help others improve their teaching”.

Teaching Assistant Professor, Olivia Burgess, (LAIS) will be presenting “Speculative Fur: Interspecies Embodiment and Alien/Animal Experience in Science Fiction” at the Society for Literature, Science and the Arts Conference. The conference theme is biopolitics, bioethics, and bioengineering and will be held on November 12, 2015 in Houston.
Mines by the Numbers

Faculty with five years of experience or less at Mines

The graph to the left shows the percentage of faculty on campus with less than five years of experience at Mines. In this same time period the faculty has grown from 238 to 290 (21.8%).

What’s Happening

Teaching Faculty Travel / Conference Funds

Academic Affairs is committed to supporting teaching faculty development through the deployment of teaching faculty travel/conference funds. At the request of the faculty, we have increased the maximum teaching faculty travel award from $1,500 to $1,700. Additional information about this program is online. A list of past recipients is also online. If you have questions about this program, please contact Kay Schneider.

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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