August 1, 2012

Dear Mines Community:

I have two announcements that are provided within this email.

At this time last year, we formed the first college at CSM that was subsequently named the College of Engineering and Computational Sciences. This was a significant change for the departments in the college since we merged three independent academic units (EG, ESE, MCS) into four new departments (AMS, CEE, EECS, ME) and placed these new academic units into the new college. I am writing today to announce the formation of the second college at CSM.

This college will contain four existing departments, each with similar mission and culture. These departments are: Chemical and Biological Engineering, Chemistry, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, and Physics. In contrast to the college formed last year, we are not creating new departments but rather are collecting the above listed departments into a college. Our expectation is that this new college, with its strong materials, energy, and bio focus will promote excellence in research and degree programs, will produce stronger collaborations across departmental lines, increase administrative effectiveness and will promote the departments within the college. As always our goal is the creation of “programs of distinction” where the education and research opportunities offered by the college and departments are well known within these fields, produce enhanced reputations, and ultimately generate a flow of quality students and research programs that place us in the top tier of institutions.

As with the College of Engineering and Computational Sciences, we have not initially named the new college and will formally ask the faculty in the college and faculty senate to participate in the choice of a name.

Prof. Tony Dean has agreed to assume the role of college Dean. Tony joined CSM in 2000 as the W. K. Coors Distinguished Chair of Chemical Engineering. After receiving his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Harvard, he taught for nine years in the Chemistry Department at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He moved to the Corporate Research labs of Exxon Research and Engineering where he formed a group to develop quantitative kinetic mechanisms to describe processes involving free radical reactions. We have appointed Professor Dean with the unanimous support of the Department Heads in the college. As part of this appointment process, the department heads within the college discussed Professor Dean with a number of faculty. What emerged was strong support for Tony as the Dean of the college. This appointment will be reviewed, in a manner that includes input from all aspects of the institution, after a two year period.

Functionally, the home for the Dean of the new college will be on the second floor of Alderson Hall in the former office complex for the Petroleum Engineering department; we are currently remodeling this area and hope to have the Dean in residence early in the fall semester.

With the formation of the second college, the departments that are now not a part of a college are EB, GE, GP, LAIS, MN, and PE. We have a continued set of discussions on forming the third college at CSM underway and I am hopeful that we will move forward on this effort in the near future.

As we start (or continue!) to count the days until the start of the Fall semester, I want to take the opportunity to thank all in the CSM community for your continued commitment to the school. In all of our endeavors, the goal is to continue to support excellence in education and research that supports our engineering and applied science activity within focus areas of Earth, Energy, and the Environment.

All the Best!

Terry Parker
Provost and Executive Vice President