May 5, 2014

Dear Campus Community:

As the spring semester comes to a close, we wanted to update the campus on the Strategic Plan and the actions that we are taking to move this plan forward.

At the 2013 December Board of Trustees meeting, the Board endorsed the campus strategic plan. This plan, presented as a set of slides, was developed in the fall and included significant input from all portions of the campus.

Strategic Plans are used by organizations to expressly state what they do, what they want to become, and core organizational values (expressed as Mission, Vision, and Values). A synopsis of our Mission, Vision, and Values are given below the signature line in this communication. The strategic plan that we adopted also included Guiding Principles that are underlying attributes set by our institutional history, and Aspirations that set long-term measures of institutional success. The actionable part of the plan is contained in four Goals that broadly describe activities that we must undertake in the coming years. Underneath each Goal is a set of Strategies that support the overall Goal; these Strategies are statements that form the foundation for activities that move the campus toward our overall goals.

Over the spring semester, we have defined Institutional Initiatives that are tangible activities supporting the Goals and Strategies articulated in the fall that if implemented help move us forward. These Initiatives require the support and participation of a large part of the campus and will be led by senior management. The Initiatives that are being considered are listed in the attached set of slides; these slides also include the Strategic Plan as approved by the Board. We are also seeing plans and activities emerging from local parts of the campus that support the overall Strategic Plan. We will continue to review, support as appropriate, and overall welcome local activity that supports an improved campus. Finally, as we have developed the proposed budget for the upcoming year, we have requested funds that support the plan: funds for a Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, funds to support web content development, funds to improve our IT systems and business processes, and increased funds for TA support.

In addition to the development of Initiatives that support the strategic plan, the Board of Trustees is working with the President and his staff to develop an array of high-level metrics that can be used to monitor the health of the campus and measure our progress in meeting the goals of the Strategic Plan. As these metrics become finalized, we will share them with the campus. Over the summer months we will work to move the strategic plan from its current form as a series of slides into a high quality brochure.

As we enter finals week for the campus, we are all aware that everyone on the campus is extremely busy. Within the time constraints that we all face, if at all possible, please do find a bit of time to consider the Strategic Plan and our next steps in supporting this plan (again, provide comments electronically to planning@mines.edu). As always, thanks to all faculty and staff for all that you do for Mines.

All the Best!

M. W. Scoggins  President
Tom Boyd       Associate Provost
Dan Fox        Vice President, Student Life
Peter Han      President’s Chief of Staff
Terry Parker   Provost
Kirsten Volpi  EVP, Finance and Administration

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

Vision:
Mines will be the premier institution, based on the impact of its graduates and research programs, in engineering and science relating to the earth, energy and the environment

Values:
A student-centered institution focused on education that promotes collaboration, integrity, perseverance, creativity, life-long learning, and a responsibility for developing a better world