Dear Colleagues,

Since many of our campus community spend significant time away from Colorado during the summer months, I wanted to share with you some recent news that has been reported in the local media.

The Department of Higher Education has informed us that Governor Ritter will be seeking a waiver that would allow the State to reduce funding for higher education beyond the 2005-06 floor level set by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This action is in response to new state budget projections that show that an additional $873 million may need to be cut from the state’s budget over the next two fiscal years. Discussions with the Department and the Joint Budget Committee are ongoing, but the exact impact on higher education and specifically Mines has not yet been determined. The School did complete the 2009 fiscal year in good financial position as a result of the cost reduction measures implemented earlier in the year, the strong enrollment at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and significant growth in research expenditures. We will continue to provide updates on the state’s budget as new information becomes available.

On the positive front, Ryan O’Hayre, assistant professor of metallurgical and materials engineering, has been selected as a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers. This is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on young professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers. In addition, Tony Petrella, assistant professor of engineering, received an NSF Early Career Development award, joining Christian Ciabanu, associate professor of engineering, who received this recognition earlier this year.

I am also pleased to report that Mines and the CSM Foundation achieved record years for research awards and fundraising. Mines faculty were awarded over $51.4 million in sponsored research in FY 2009. The Foundation raised over $30 million in gifts and pledges during the past fiscal year. Additional details on these announcements can be found on our website: http://mines.edu/NewsEvents

Finally, as you return to campus there will be some physical changes to the campus landscape. The demolition of the Hall of Justice is nearing completion. You will recall that the State provided funding for this project as the Hall of Justice had become a safety hazard. Nearly 90 percent of the building materials will be recycled or reused. The area will be seeded while site development plans are assessed. Also the financing for the Brown Hall renovation and addition have been finalized. The design and engineering plans are being completed and groundbreaking is currently scheduled for late Fall semester.

I will provide a more detailed update when the semester begins later in August. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Sincerely,

Bill Scoggins