Materials Science and Engineering Degree Program – Chris Bowman, Distinguished Professor and James and Catherin Patten Endowed Chair, gave an update on the new Materials Science and Engineering program and its activities this fall. The proposed PhD program was presented to and enthusiastically received by the Board of Regents at their November 2012 meeting. They will formally vote on approval of the degree program at their February 2013 meeting. The plan is to recruit several outstanding graduate students for the 2013 academic year.

Twenty-five Fellows and 32 Affiliates have been named to the MSE program, with about 60% from Engineering, and Chris Bowman has been selected as Director of the program. The search for five new faculty members is underway – with the interdisciplinary nature of this program, there is significant opportunity to hire several distinguished candidates across sciences and engineering. Faculty will be rostered in the departments. Department participation in identifying and selecting key faculty was solicited. The full update from Chris is attached.

Aerospace Ventures – Penny Axelrad, AES Department Chair, gave an update on the Aerospace Ventures (formally called AS3E). This venture is a campus-wide initiative lead by the Aerospace Engineering Sciences Department to create stronger connections between engineering, the sciences and industrial researchers to address some of the most challenging and critical problems in earth and space science. One of the key elements of the initiative is a new building. With the improvement in the national economy, the focus on aerospace industry as an economic priority for Colorado, and the increasing commitment of our industrial partners, AES is moving forward with plans to engage campus units, industry and state economic development in the Aerospace Venture plans. Efforts are also underway to expand interdepartmental collaborations primarily with ATOC and LASP and identifying major research opportunities. The Admin Council agreed that construction of the Aerospace Building should be targeted for the East Campus, as it could be larger and potentially at lower cost per square foot than if it was an addition to the Engineering Center. Additional recommendations were provided by the Admin Council regarding departments and other collaboration partners that would strengthen the Venture. Marketing and fundraising plans are underway. The full update from Penny is attached.

Brief Items – The following were also discussed:

- Engineering Recognition Ceremony, Dec. 21st 5:00 pm
- New Young Alumni Award (within 10 years of graduation) – nominations due February 1, 2013
- Campus Awards (BFA, Hazel Barnes, Distinguished Prof) – nominations due in February
- Update on Grant Awards for FY13 - $19 million in awards received by our college in the first 3 months of FY13, on pace to exceed last year’s record $73 million, but there are concerns that federal funding of research will decline in the near future
- Kurt Maute announced that OCG will be restructured, including six new positions

In attendance: Rob Davis, Jeff Sczechowski, Jackie Sullivan, Diane Sieber, JoAnn Zelasko, Carin Knickel, Penny Axelrad, Dan Schwartz, John Bennett, Jim Martin, Victor Bright, Kurt Maute, Keith Molenaar, Michael Lightner, Chris Bowman (first part only)