

Search Updates

Dean, College of Engineering

June 1, 2023: The committee has been formed, and will gather and finalize the position profile by mid-June. The committee will be involved in training for a senior level search, including EDI training. A search consultant will recruit throughout the summer and the committee will reconvene in early fall to decide on a medium list. From there, campus visit will be scheduled with the goal to complete the search by end of November 2023.

October 5, 2023: The search process follows USask policy and procedures. Information about the search and search committee can be found on the website of the provost and vice president academic.

The posting and position profile for the College of Engineering search have been circulated through academic job advertising sites and professional sites during summer. These materials have been further enhanced in September and will be circulated through September/October.

The search to-date has included contact from and with potential applicants. The search committee meets at the end of October to consider applications to-date and to create a medium list. Interviews of medium list candidates are scheduled for November.

Following completion of medium list interviews, the search creates a short list of candidates who will be invited to in-person meetings on-campus. Meetings will include focus groups across the College of Engineering, wider university, and with stakeholders. Short-listed candidates will provide a presentation to the university community. Feedback will be sought from all those taking part in gatherings with the short-listed candidates.

The search remains open until the position is filled.

November 15, 2023: I am writing to provide an update on the search underway for the next Dean of the College of Engineering. Thank you to the search committee members for their service.

The posting for the role has been advertised across the province, nationally and internationally. In addition, industry groups have been contacted. We appreciate the services of the administration team of the provost's office headed by Brittney Zaleschuk, and search consultant Alex Verdecchia from McDermott + Bull.

The committee is currently engaged in medium list interviews, each of which are online. From this process a shortlist will be identified for on-campus visits. We anticipate welcoming short-listed candidates to USask between November 30-December 8. Information about visits and associated opportunities for meeting each candidate will come through to the college shortly. Following meetings with focus groups and a presentation from each candidate, feedback will be sought to inform the deliberations of the search committee.

Information about the search, committee membership, and search procedures can be found [here](#).

November 22, 2023: The search committee met recently and interviewed three candidates as part of phase one.

January 11, 2024: As chair of the search committee, I am writing today with an update.

The search is advancing, consistent with the university's search and review [procedures](#). As happens with senior administration searches, the position remains open until filled.

During fall 2023 several candidates met with the university community. Thank you for your time in meeting with candidates and providing detailed feedback for the committee.

For personal reasons, the preferred candidate has chosen to step away from the opportunity to lead the college. All candidates have spoken highly of the engagement with the college and community.

As happens in some searches, we are now moving to a second phase in the process.

Phase two recruitment continues from January 11. The committee will reconvene in the last week of February to review round two folios. We anticipate medium list interviews to be in early March (5, 8 March), and short list candidates to be interviewed in early April (1-5, 8-9 April). Short listed candidates will visit the University of Saskatchewan and meet with a range of stakeholder groups. Feedback from the college and wider university community will be sought from 10-19 April. The committee will deliberate in the final week of April.

Your input is important. The committee would welcome recommendations from the college community of potential candidates.

The original posting can be found [here](#). A detailed briefing has also been prepared which is shared with candidates.

Please contact Alex Verdecchia at averdecchia@mbexec.ca if you should have any questions about the role or suggested candidates.

Thank you for your continued and valued engagement in the search process.

March 18, 2024: The search committee met recently, and we will proceed with candidate visits and interviews for the following candidates (listed alphabetically):

Hussein Abdullah	Professor, Engineering Systems and Computing, School of Engineering, University of Guelph
Michael Bradley	Professor and Department Head, Department of Physics & Engineering Physics, College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan
Janaka Ruwanpura	Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering; Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (International), University of Calgary

Jafar Soltan

Professor, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering;
Associate Dean Research and Partnerships, College of
Engineering, University of Saskatchewan

Copies of the candidates' CVs will be available in the dean's office if you wish to view them. As part of the visit and interview process, each candidate has been invited to make a brief public presentation to the university community on the following topic: "***What is your vision for the College of Engineering and how would you go about enacting that vision?***" The 20-minute presentation will conclude with a question-and-answer session during which time attendees can pose questions to the candidate. All presentations will be recorded and will be made available for viewing following the presentation. Recordings can be found [here](#) once they are available.

Dates have been confirmed for the candidates' public presentations as follows:

Michael Bradley	April 1 – 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Convocation Hall, Peter MacKinnon Building
Jafar Soltan	April 3 – 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Convocation Hall, Peter MacKinnon Building
Janaka Ruwanpura	April 8 – 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Convocation Hall, Peter MacKinnon Building
Hussein Abdullah	April 11 – 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Convocation Hall, Peter MacKinnon Building

Following the completion of the presentations, you are invited to submit feedback on the candidates. All responses will be shared in their entirety and held within the confidence of the search committee. Your feedback to the committee, via the chair, is critical in selecting the best leader for the college. Please submit your comments by 4 pm on April 22. Submissions can be sent via email to brittney.zaleschuk@usask.ca.