Message from the Dean

It is my privilege to present our 2014 Annual Report of Performance Indicators and highlight programs launched in 2013-14. Through a wealth of metrics that span ten years, and benchmark comparisons with peer institutions, this report positions our progress and illustrates our remarkable achievements. We use this published data to help identify new priorities, critical to maintaining our Faculty’s high standards.

At U of T Engineering, our international reputation, strategic recruitment and pioneering programs attract students of the highest calibre from across Canada and around the world. In 2014, we received more than 11,000 undergraduate applications — the highest ever recorded — meaning there was a place for only one of every ten applicants to our programs. For our incoming undergraduate class, one third comes from outside Canada and 30 per cent are women, adding diverse and global perspectives that enrich our learning environment.

We nurture the next generation of engineers to become makers and innovators. Hands-on opportunities, such as our new Multidisciplinary Capstone Projects course, spark interactions across disciplines and with industry partners. New undergraduate options, including our Biomedical Engineering minor and certificates in Engineering Leadership and Renewable Resources, allow our students to customize their degrees.

The rising interest in our graduate programs is a testament to our reputation as a global leader in engineering research, education and innovation. We have made tremendous progress towards our 2011-16 Academic Plan goal of balancing the undergraduate-to-graduate ratio. We accomplished this by keeping undergraduate enrolments on target and surpassing our goal of 2,000 graduate students two years ahead of schedule — a rise of over 50 percent in the past seven years. We enhanced our graduate programs with a certificate in Financial Engineering, a PhD collaborative program in Engineering Education, and two MEng emphases: Advanced Water Technology & Process Design and Sustainable Aviation.

U of T Engineering continues to pursue research excellence, enhance cross-disciplinary collaborations and make advances in addressing some of the world’s most significant challenges. Our Faculty members are recognized leaders in their fields, whose contributions help shape our country’s innovation agenda, entrepreneurship and economic prosperity. Our achievements are recognized not only in their impact to engineering and society, but also by netting the largest share of major international awards and honours; the highest number of invention disclosures and patent applications recorded at U of T; and the largest share of NSERC funding among engineering Faculties in Canada. This past year, we exceeded our NSERC funding goal three years earlier than outlined in our Academic Plan. We also launched two multidisciplinary research institutes in the key areas of advanced manufacturing and transportation.

Over the last year, alumni, students and faculty have rallied behind the forthcoming Centre for Engineering Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CEIE) — recognizing the immense opportunities the new building affords both students and researchers alike. It is invigorating to experience such a generous level of support for our campaign as, together, we take this next leap forward in driving innovation, fostering entrepreneurship and cultivating global engineering leaders.

Thank you to our vibrant engineering community for your outstanding contributions, unwavering pursuit of excellence and continued commitment to our Faculty’s goals. I welcome your input on the 2014 Annual Report of Performance Indicators and look forward to your feedback.

Cristina Amon, Dean
September 2014