1. Executive Summary

This year, U of T Engineering reached the midpoint of our 2011–16 Academic Plan – a vibrant, living document that guides our Faculty’s strategic activities. To assess and demonstrate our progress in achieving and exceeding our ambitious goals, we are pleased to present our Year Three progress report.

Through actively fostering a culture of excellence, our Engineering Faculty continues to be the leader among Canadian peers. We garnered 21.3 per cent of all major faculty awards in the country over the last year, and have been named Canada’s premier engineering school in every international ranking.

Enhancing the student experience has been our ongoing priority, and our innovative initiatives attract students of the highest calibre from across Canada and around the world. Applications to undergraduate programs grew by 10 per cent this year, and the Ontario high school average for our first year class is now at 92.3 per cent. Recognizing that brilliance is demonstrated by more than just grades, we are launching a more broad-based admissions approach that will include interviews with the applicants in addition to marks, extra-curricular activities and essays.

We surpassed our goal of 2,000 graduate students by 2015 two years early, and we are well on our way to balancing the undergraduate to graduate student ratio to 60:40. Internationally, we have attracted top exchange students from around the world including over 300 Brazilian students through the Science without Borders (SwB) program, and we have met our goal of 25 per cent international undergraduate enrolment. Having reached that target, we are now enhancing our regional recruiting efforts to achieve even greater diversity among our student body.

Our Faculty continues to be a leader in advancing the use of learning technology. In the past year, we developed a new Technology Enhanced Active Learning (TEAL) pilot classroom, and additional online and inverted classroom courses. We have added a new undergraduate minor and two new undergraduate certificates, and launched Canada’s first collaborative Engineering Education program for master and PhD students. We also appointed a task force to review and make recommendations to improve the first year curriculum.

In addition to enhancing the educational experience, supporting multidisciplinary and collaborative research is a key component of our Academic Plan. This year we established two new EDU:Cs – the University of Toronto Transportation Research Institute (UTTRI) and the Toronto Institute of Advanced Manufacturing (TIAM). We also achieved $26.3 million per year in Tri-Council annual funding, surpassing our
Academic Plan goal of $25 million by 2015. We have now established a new goal of $32-million in Tri-Council funding by 2015-16.

In 2013-14, the Faculty experienced our most successful fundraising year of the Boundless Campaign. Alumni, students and friends from around the world rallied behind our vision for excellence in engineering research, education and innovation, which includes our forthcoming Centre for Engineering Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CEIE). We raised $22 million last year, which combined with funds raised at earlier stages of the campaign, brings us more than halfway to our $200-million Engineering Campaign goal. Our success is a signal that our work is delivering value and promise. We are educating the brightest new engineers and making transformative innovations that are impacting our world. We will continue to pursue new relationships, industry partnerships and collaborations with external stakeholders to further enhance our impact.

We invite you to read more about our progress and achievements in the following report. These past three years have laid the foundation upon which we will build our future, and that future looks very bright.