# 1. Executive Summary

The Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering's five-year *Academic Plan 2011–2016*, outlines our goals in seven areas: culture of excellence; positioning; educating future engineers; student experience; research foci; outreach, collaboration and influence; and resource allocation. We developed our Academic Plan through a highly consultative planning process involving our U of T Engineering community and other key stakeholders. Over the past four years, its framework has guided and inspired us, and we have made remarkable progress in realizing, and often exceeding, the ambitious goals set out in this document. As we enter into the final year of the Academic Plan, we are pleased to present our Year Four progress report.

Our commitment to providing an outstanding student experience, as well as our reputation for academic excellence, attracts the brightest students from across Canada and around the world. In 2014–2015, we drew a record 10,989 applications for only 1,130 undergraduate places. From that pool, we admitted the most accomplished first-year class in our history, with the mean entering average of Ontario secondary school students increasing to 92.4 per cent. It was also the most diverse: 30.6 per cent of our first-year students were women, the highest proportion of any entering class in Canada, and 31.9 per cent were international students. Across our undergraduate and graduate cohorts, our students came from 109 countries, providing the cultural diversity to ensure rich intellectual conversations and a global outlook.

Interest in our doctoral and masters programs continued to grow, with the graduate cohort increasing to 2,194 students in 2014–2015 after surpassing our Academic Plan goal of 2,000 graduate students, two years ahead of schedule. This graduate expansion resulted in an undergraduate-to-graduate ratio of 2.24 to 1 in 2014–2015, down from 2.35 to 1 in 2013–2014, bringing us closer to our long-term goal of 1.5 undergraduates for every graduate student.

International educational exchanges, both outgoing and incoming, allow our students to gain cross-cultural fluency and experiences that enhance their understanding of today's complex challenges. In 2014–2015, we welcomed 147 students from more than 30 peer institutions and sent 94 of our students to 26 partner universities across the globe. Our partnership with Brazil's *Ciência sem Fronteiras* program continues to be strong, with 490 students coming to U of T Engineering since the program's inception in 2012.

We remain the premier engineering school in Canada and one of the world's best across all international rankings. Actively working to foster a culture of excellence, U of T

Engineering continues to be the leader among its Canadian peers. We received 25 per cent of all the major awards given to Canadian engineering faculty members, despite the fact that our professors make up only 5.5 per cent of the national total. We continue to innovate and evolve our curriculum to enhance experiential and collaborative learning opportunities and enable students to customize their degrees. For example, in 2015 we introduced a new minor in Nanoengineering and a certificate in Communication. We further enhanced our graduate offerings through the creation of an MEng in Biomedical Engineering, emphases in the leading-edge areas of Sustainable Energy and Advanced Manufacturing, and a collaborative program for masters and doctoral students in Engineering Education. In 2014–2015 the Core Curriculum Review Task Force completed its assessment of the content and delivery of first-year core curriculum and we have begun implementing the recommendations.

Our Academic Plan outlined a key goal with respect to our research portfolio: to increase our Tri-Council funding to $25 million per year by 2015. We surpassed this goal three years early, reaching $26.3 million in 2012–2013, and are making excellent progress toward our newly established goal of $32 million by 2015–2016. Fostering multidisciplinary and collaborative research is a vital component of our Academic Plan, and in 2014–2015 we established new partnerships and centres including the Translational Biology and Engineering Program — part of the new Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research — and the University of Toronto Centre for Aerial Robotics Research and Education.

We had a highly successful fundraising year for philanthropic and research gifts, with support from alumni, graduating students and other members of our vibrant community reaching $34.9 million. Our fundraising has accomplished more than $152 million toward the goal of $200 million for Boundless: The Campaign for the University of Toronto. A major focus for our campaign is the Centre for Engineering Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CEIE), which started construction in June 2015 and will set a new standard for engineering education and research. Collectively, with the generous support of alumni and friends, along with Faculty and University commitments, we have raised almost $80 million toward this transformative project. We have continued to manage our resources strategically and maintained a strong financial position, with a 7.5 per cent increase in revenue in 2014–2015 compared with the previous year.

Together, we made tremendous progress and impact over the past four years, and we invite you to read more about our achievements in the following report. We look forward to another year of excellence in our final year of the Academic Plan.