Engineering Department Chair Position Description

The new Department of Engineering, approved this year at Wake Forest University, is being established within the Undergraduate College, which currently enrolls more than 4850 students in over 25 departments and 45 undergraduate programs of study. The Department of Engineering is part of a new initiative consisting of several programs in Biomedical Sciences and Engineering that will anchor the University’s undergraduate presence, referred to as Wake Downtown, in the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter (WFIQ) beginning in 2017. The programs in the Biomedical Sciences being established at Wake Downtown are a new Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery concentration within the existing Chemistry major, and a new major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. All three programs will be housed under the same roof in newly renovated space in Wake Forest Innovation Quarter.

In addition to the Undergraduate College, Wake Forest University has professional schools of law, medicine, business, and divinity. Wake Forest University Health Sciences (WFUHS), which includes Wake Forest Baptist Hospital as well as many graduate programs and the School of Medicine, is in Winston-Salem and about two miles from Innovation Quarter. Starting in July 2016, the School of Medicine will relocate to the same building as the new programs being established at Wake Downtown (including the Engineering Department). In addition to the Medical School, the WFUHS Physician Assistants program and the Division of Public Health Science are located in adjacent buildings in WFIQ. The Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine, also part of WFUHS, is located in its own building nearby. Wake Forest Innovation Quarter is a new and rapidly growing hub for innovative education, research, and business development. See this link to a New York Times article about it: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/29/realestate/commercial/technology-overtakes-tobacco-in-winston-salem-nc.html?_r=0.

When fully operational in 5-6 years, the Department of Engineering will be capable of conferring about 70 undergraduate degrees per year, with graduates holding a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree. One concentration that is expected to be included is a track in Biomedical Engineering. In addition, the Department is expected to administer a newly approved minor in Biomaterials Science and Engineering. Wake Forest currently has a Department of Biomedical Engineering housed in facilities at Biotech Place within Wake Forest Innovation Quarter and offers Ph.D. and M.S. degrees joint with Virginia Tech as part of the Virginia Tech – Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences. The Department of Engineering is expected to consist of 7 tenure-track faculty members and a professor of the practice, supplemented by associated faculty in other departments within Wake Forest University, such as the Biomedical Engineering graduate program.

The Department Chair position for this new department at Wake Forest presents an exciting opportunity for an innovative and enterprising leader to build an Engineering Department from the ground up. The Department Chair is charged with overseeing the recruitment and hiring of high-quality faculty to establish the Department at Wake Downtown. In addition, the Chair must lead faculty in their mission of education, research, and service. This charge includes working with faculty and the university to develop the Department’s vision, to articulate and implement a Departmental strategic plan, and to achieve the goal of creating an innovative educational
environment for engineering students. The Engineering Chair and faculty will be expected to work together toward the goal of establishing ABET accreditation soon after graduating the first class of students from the program. The Chair is also charged with promoting the Department through alumni, donor, community, and industrial engagement. The Chair will be responsible for establishing a new Engineering Department that operates within, and embraces, Wake Forest’s culture as a leading collegiate university in the US. The new Department will be responsible for providing major and minor courses, as well as for teaching lower-level courses to non-engineering majors, including first-year seminars on topics in engineering.

The Department Chair is expected to be a tenured full professor in the College; however, exceptional applicants at the senior associate level may be considered. The Department Chair of Engineering reports to the Dean of the Undergraduate College and serves as the chief administrative officer who is responsible for the Department’s administration, hiring, and promotion as well as the budget under the University’s budget model.

A successful candidate will:

- Possess an outstanding record in research, teaching, and service – areas critical to the University’s mission and Pro Humanitate motto.
- Demonstrate successful leadership in research, education, and service.
- Recruit, develop, and retain outstanding faculty; support faculty in research and educational endeavors; and guide the mentorship of junior faculty.
- Work effectively and collaboratively with faculty and administration to develop the Department’s vision, to create a roadmap for establishing a high-quality Engineering Department, and to integrate the Department’s vision, plan, and goals with those of the College and University.
- Promote the Department by engaging alumni and donors to enhance Departmental resources.
- Engage the greater Winston-Salem community and industry in Winston-Salem as well as inside and outside of North Carolina.
- Work with faculty and staff to establish ABET accreditation for the Department.
- Be committed to diversity among students, faculty, and staff.
- Communicate effectively with all constituents including students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and members of the community.
- Represent the Department at University, College, and public activities.

The desired start date for this position is **January 1, 2017**. To ensure full consideration, applications should be received by **September 1, 2016**; however, applications will be considered until the position is filled. Salary is commensurate with skills and experience.