



To: Staff in the Research and Innovation Portfolio
Governing Council
Academic Board
Business Board
University Affairs Board
UTM Campus Council
UTSC Campus Council
Principals, Deans, Academic Directors, and Chairs
Professionals and Managerial Staff
Confidential Staff
President of UTFA
Presidents of Employee Unions
Presidents of APUS, GSU, SCSU, UTMSU and UTSU
President, University of Toronto Alumni Association (UTAA)

From: Professor Meric Gertler, President

Date: June 25, 2019

Re: **Appointment of Professor Vivek Goel as Vice-President, Research and Innovation, and Strategic Initiatives**

I am very pleased to announce that the Governing Council has approved the appointment of Professor Vivek Goel to the expanded role of Vice-President, Research and Innovation, and Strategic Initiatives, for a five-year term, effective July 1, 2019 and continuing until June 30, 2024.

Professor Goel is currently serving as the Vice-President, Research and Innovation. Under his leadership, and with engagement from the University community, a new five-year (2018-2023) Institutional Strategic Research Plan (ISRP) was developed. It identified seven strategic research themes as well as five strategic objectives (including objectives around student experience and equity, diversity and inclusion). Other accomplishments have included a growth in research funding, in part arising from a significant focus on increasing the applications and success rate in federal granting programs as well as a focus on industry funding. There has also been significant expansion in the area of innovations, partnerships and entrepreneurship. Under the umbrella of U of T Entrepreneurship (UTE), the entrepreneurship ecosystem within the University continues to expand with ten campus-linked accelerators across all three campuses, along with the JLABS facility at MaRS. There has also been considerable activity in the commercialization of research-based IP, with U of T now a leader among Canadian and US universities for new invention disclosures, licenses, and start-ups. The

portfolio has also continued to expand the 'back office' services it provides with regard to support for activities related to research funding, innovation and entrepreneurship and oversight and compliance. Professor Goel has also provided leadership for major large-scale, interdisciplinary, and cross-divisional academic initiatives such as Medicine by Design, the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research, and the Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society. In recognition of this, and in order to develop and support such institutional strategic initiatives, the portfolio is being formally expanded.

I am grateful for the outstanding leadership that Professor Goel has provided to date on the research and innovation files and I look forward to continuing to work with him in this newly expanded role.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Advisory Committee for their involvement in this critical process and for their thoughtful advice and guidance.