



Memorandum 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, Managers and Confidential Staff
President of UTFA
Presidents of Employee Unions
Presidents of APUS, GSU, SCSU, UTMSU and UTSU

From: Professor Melanie Woodin, President

Date: October 2, 2026

Re: **Advisory Committee on the Appointment of a Vice-President,
Research and Innovation, and Strategic Initiatives**

Following a [call for nominations](#), I am pleased to announce the membership of the Advisory Committee for the Vice-President, Research and Innovation, and Strategic Initiatives as follows:

- **Dr. Arij Al Chawaf**, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives, Institutional Strategic Initiatives
- **Ms Julia Cole**, PhD Candidate, Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Science
- **Professor Stark Draper**, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Vice-Dean Research, Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering
- **Ms Julie Hannaford**, Deputy Chief Librarian
- **Professor Rita Kandel**, Professor and Chair, Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology - Anatomic Pathology, Temerty Faculty of Medicine
- **Professor Alison Keith**, University Professor, Department of Classics, Faculty of Arts and Science

- **Professor Kent Moore**, University Professor, Department of Chemical & Physical Sciences, UTM
- **Professor Mariana Prado**, Professor, Faculty of Law and Vice-Provost, Strategic Enrolment Management
- **Professor Nicholas Spence**, Associate Professor of Health and Society, Sociology, and Physical and Environmental Sciences and Chair, Department of Sociology, UTSC
- **Professor Mason White**, Professor and Dean of the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design
- **Dr. Bradly Wouters**, Executive Vice President, Science and Research, University Health Network (UHN)
- **Mr. Trevor Rodgers**, Assistant Vice-President, Institutional Strategy (*ex officio*, non-voting member)

As noted in the call for nominations, the Committee will undertake a review and advise me on the Research and Innovation portfolio and on priorities that should be considered for the Vice-President. In addition, the Committee will consider whether to recommend the reappointment of Professor Leah Cowen.

The Advisory Committee welcomes comments and advice. These should be submitted using the [confidential online form](#) by **noon on Thursday, October 8, 2026**. Responses will be confidential to the Committee.

Questions should be directed to the Secretary of the Committee, Sheree Drummond, at sheree.drummond@utoronto.ca.