The Opportunity

Yale University invites applications and nominations for the position of dean of the School of Engineering & Applied Science (SEAS), a division within Yale’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS).

Reporting jointly to the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the provost, the dean will provide leadership and strategic oversight for the five SEAS departments: Biomedical Engineering; Chemical and Environmental Engineering; Computer Science; Electrical Engineering; and Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science, which currently comprise roughly 80 ladder faculty members.

In November 2016, President Peter Salovey identified science (broadly construed) as a top academic priority for Yale. He charged a University Science Strategy Committee (USSC) to develop a strategic plan for STEM, to identify changes to organizational structures to support excellence in science and engineering, and to recommend a prioritized set of big ideas for new investment.

The resulting 2018 Report of the University Science Strategy Committee offers a bold and ambitious vision of science and engineering at Yale for the next decades, including major investments in instrumentation, infrastructure, graduate support, diversity, and faculty excellence. It encourages the university to think imaginatively and boldly about its science and engineering community, and about the ways in which it can bring together strengths within and across Yale’s departments, programs, and schools.

In keeping with this strategic vision, SEAS anticipates additional ladder appointments in the near future in conjunction with campus-wide initiatives in science and engineering. The next dean of SEAS will work with the departments and campus leadership to shape and lead this growth.
Role of the Dean

The dean will oversee the day-to-day well-being and mid- and long-term planning of the departments in SEAS.

Working in conjunction with the FAS dean of science, the dean of SEAS will coordinate efforts between these departments and the other nine FAS science departments. The dean of SEAS will also oversee the Center for Engineering Innovation and Design and the Advanced Graduate Leadership Program, and will represent Yale in all external activities and matters associated with the engineering profession.

Together with the FAS deans of humanities, social science, and science, the dean of SEAS will meet regularly with the dean of the FAS to coordinate FAS-wide goals, strategies, policies, and practices. The dean of SEAS participates on major FAS committees, including the Faculty Resource Committee, which oversees the allocation of all FAS faculty searches.

Read a comprehensive description of the dean’s responsibilities.

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

The next dean of SEAS dean will be expected to:

- Articulate and execute a vision for integrating SEAS fully into the fabric of Yale to advance the university’s science strategy;

- Build on the excellence of SEAS departments and programs to enhance the distinction of Yale Engineering; and

- Unite faculty, staff, and students around SEAS’s mission and distinctiveness to build a stronger community, inspire a shared commitment to its success, and strengthen a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The dean of SEAS will provide vision and strategic and intellectual leadership for SEAS while fully realizing collaborative opportunities with and across the FAS and Yale University. The dean will advance and accelerate research, discovery, and education across the school.

In pursuit of these objectives, the dean of SEAS will demonstrate the following qualifications and qualities:

- An accomplished record of scholarship that would warrant a tenured appointment as full professor in one of Yale’s academic departments;
- Ability to create and articulate a vision for SEAS that integrates the strengths of its faculty across FAS and university in pursuit of the university’s strategic priorities;
- Successful experience in an academic leadership role such as center director, department chair, or associate dean;
- Ability to engage faculty, staff, and students toward shared goals and outcomes that will enhance the distinctive strengths and reputation of SEAS;
- Outstanding interpersonal skills to build productive and collaborative relationships across SEAS, FAS, and the university;
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to represent SEAS within and beyond the university, to engage people individually and collectively, to write and speak in a compelling manner, and to listen effectively;
- Demonstrated commitment to ethics, transparency, and integrity;
- Demonstrated commitment to and appreciation for diversity at all levels;
- A strong understanding of the opportunities and challenges of undergraduate and graduate engineering education, including an awareness of new and emerging trends in the field;
- Demonstrated experience working effectively and collaboratively with faculty with respect for diverse areas of scholarship, pedagogical approaches, and the balance between traditional academic scholarship and practical engineering endeavors; and
- Demonstrated success recruiting, developing, and retaining accomplished scholars and teachers.
Procedures for Candidacy

All inquiries, nominations, and applications are invited. Applicants should e-mail a CV and detailed letter of interest to the Witt/Kieffer search consultants, Philip Tang and Suzanne Teer, at YaleSEASDean@wittkieffer.com. For fullest consideration, applicant materials should be received as soon as possible and no later than January 31, 2019.

*Yale University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer. Yale values diversity among its students, staff, and faculty and strongly welcomes applications from women, persons with disabilities, protected veterans, and underrepresented minorities.*