



MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Staff, and Students, Department of Physical & Environmental Sciences
From: Professor William A. Gough, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean, U of T Scarborough
Professor Joshua Barker, Dean, School of Graduate Studies & Vice-Provost, Graduate Research & Education
Date: 8 June 2022
Re: **Academic Administrative Appointment
Chair & Graduate Chair, Department of Physical & Environmental Sciences**
Note: For distribution broadly

I am pleased to inform you that the Agenda Committee of Academic Board has approved the re-appointment of Professor George Arhonditsis as Chair and Graduate Chair of the Department of Physical & Environmental Sciences from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025.

Professor Arhonditsis is a Professor in the Department of Physical & Environmental Sciences. He received his PhD in Environmental Sciences from the University of the Aegean, and MSc and BSc degrees in Agricultural Sciences and Engineering from the University of Athens, Greece. He joined U of T Scarborough in September 2005 as Assistant Professor, was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2010, and to Professor in 2015. His research program aims to develop both mechanistic and statistical models, as well as machine-learning techniques to address environmental problems related to eutrophication, fisheries, invasive species, species at risk, implementation of best management practices in a watershed context, or even prognostic tools for extreme meteorological events.

Prior to being appointed as Chair and Graduate Chair in 2016, Professor Arhonditsis has served in the capacities of Interim Chair (September 2015 - June 2016) and Associate Chair Undergraduate (2010-2015). Colleagues have praised his exceptional leadership and strong vision as Chair that led to tremendous growth in all aspects of the University's mission. He has successfully led the development of new academic programs and spearheaded various accreditations. Under his leadership, the academic facilities have seen continued investment and growth, and the research profile continues to flourish. Professor Arhonditsis has further cultivated the culture of promoting and celebrating excellence through faculty and staff awards. Over the last five years, he has been a very strong advocate and an enthusiastic champion of the Department who possesses an in-depth knowledge of its opportunities and challenges. In addition to being an experienced administrator, he is a well-respected scholar with over 200 peer-reviewed publications and his research being supported by grants from Environment & Climate Change Canada, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, NSERC, and MITACS among others. He is also the Editor-in-Chief for the journal Ecological Informatics.

I am very pleased that Professor Arhonditsis is willing to serve another term as Chair and Graduate Chair of the Department of Physical & Environmental Sciences, and I am confident that he will continue to provide excellent leadership. I look forward to continuing working closely with him in this capacity.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the advisory search committees for their service in these important processes. The participation of members of the committees, and the input of faculty, staff, and students is greatly appreciated.