


## MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Staff, Students, and Postdoctoral Fellows, University of Toronto Scarborough  
From: Professor William A. Gough, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean   
Date: 20 May 2022  
Re: **Academic Administrative Appointment - Vice-Dean Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies**  
Note: For distribution broadly

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It is with great pleasure that I write to inform you that the Agenda Committee of Academic Board has approved the appointment of Professor Rene E. Harrison as Vice-Dean Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025.

Professor Harrison is a Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at U of T Scarborough with graduate appointments in the Departments of Cell & Systems Biology, and Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology at the St. George campus. She received her PhD in Biology from the University of Toronto and holds an MSc in Zoology from the University of Manitoba, and a BSc in Biology from the University of Winnipeg. Professor Harrison joined U of T Scarborough in 2003 as an Assistant Professor, was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2008, and to Professor in 2017.

Professor Harrison is a cell biologist, and the goal of her research is to understand how specialized cells function in normal and diseased states. The expertise of her research lab is the cytoskeleton where they use advanced molecular and cell biology approaches to identify fundamental mechanisms driving cell specialization and disease. Professor Harrison is a well-respected scholar, very active in scientific research and in mentoring young researchers. Her research is supported by grants from the Canadian Space Agency, CIHR, and NSERC, and has served as a panelist or external reviewer on grant review committees for these agencies. She has a strong record of high impact publications, invited seminars and presentations.

She is an experienced administrator having served as Associate Chair of Research & Graduate Studies in the Department of Biological Sciences at U of T Scarborough (2013-2016 & 2017-2018), and committee Chair of U of T Scarborough Mentoring, Equity & Diversity (2019-2021) and the Biological Sciences Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (2020-21).

I am grateful that Professor Harrison is willing to take on the role of Vice-Dean Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, and I am confident that she will further enhance the graduate and postdoctoral portfolio. I, along with the other members of the decanal team, look forward to working with her.

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