Position Announcement

Professor and Head, Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science

The University of Tennessee (UT) is seeking applications and nominations for the position of Professor and Head of the Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science. This is a 12-month, tenured position.

The Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science is an integral part of the UT Institute of Agriculture (UTIA). The department is a unique combination of agricultural/biosystems engineering, soil and environmental science, and biosystems technology faculty. It has close academic, research, and extension connections with other UT departments and with collaborative research partners at nearby Oak Ridge National Laboratory. High quality graduate and undergraduate programs are offered in biosystems engineering, soil and environmental sciences, and biosystems engineering technology (construction science, off-road vehicle technology, and agricultural systems technology). The department has a current enrollment of approximately 200 undergraduates, 20 MS students, and 20 PhD students. The teaching program in biosystems engineering is closely aligned with course offerings of the UT College of Engineering. Research programs in the department reflect the wide diversity of faculty expertise. Strong fundamental and applied research activity exists in the following areas: biological process engineering; precision agriculture technologies; power machinery equipment systems; sensor and instrumentation development; soil and water engineering; wastewater and animal waste management; nutrient cycling and management, environmental microbiology; fate and transport behavior of colloids/contaminants/trace elements & compounds; sustainable agricultural systems. Extension faculty are actively engaged in high impact educational programs across the state, nation and internationally. Over the past five years the research and extension expenditures from extramural funds have averaged over $2.6M per year. Department personnel include 25 tenure/tenure track research, extension, and teaching faculty (15 biosystems engineering and 10 soil and environmental science), 5 non-tenure track teaching and extension faculty, 8 professional staff, and 5 support staff. Funding comes from recurring, appropriated funds and an active and successful grant and contract program. Unique strengths of the Department include the ability to approach research and extension problems with multidisciplinary teams of engineers and scientists. Current research projects and extension programs reflect the broad scope of faculty backgrounds and interests,
but tend to have a strong environmental component. For more information, visit the website at http://bioengr.ag.utk.edu/

Additional information on UT, UTIA, and the Knoxville area can be found at: http://www.utk.edu

https://ag.tennessee.edu/Pages/default.aspx

http://www.cityofknoxville.org/newcomers/

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Department Head’s responsibilities include leadership of all departmental programs and administrative responsibility for planning, fiscal management, human resources and facilities. The Department Head reports to the Deans of AgResearch, UT Extension, and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, working with their offices to accomplish departmental goals and objectives. The Head guides the Department in its mission to deliver nationally and internationally recognized programs in research, extension and teaching. The Head interacts with all individual faculty on a regular basis to encourage and promote the departmental mission and team comradery within the Department and UTIA.

The successful candidate will:

• Create and foster a culture of high quality scholarship consistent with a tier-one research institution;
• Cultivate externally sponsored opportunities to support Departmental programs;
• Encourage innovative and effective teaching at all levels;
• Promote the land grant mission thru integrated teaching, research and extension programs;
• Lead research, extension, and teaching activities in the Department with fairness and integrity;
• Advocate for the Department to external constituencies (including alumni, agricultural industries, construction industries, state and federal agencies, and professional organizations), and the administration within the University;
• Recruit, motivate and strengthen faculty, staff and students through active engagement, mentoring, and professional development programs;
• Foster an environment of collegiality, teamwork, diversity and respect for multicultural and multi-disciplinary settings in the Department and in the university community;
• Interact with faculty, students, stakeholders and the Department’s Advisory Group[s] to determine direction and priorities;
• Enhance cooperation and collaboration with other departments, colleges and universities.
REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate must qualify for the rank of Professor in the Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science with an earned Ph.D. in Agricultural or Biosystems Engineering, Soil Science, Environmental Science or a closely related field. The candidate must also meet the following qualifications:

• Excellence in academic or administrative leadership in one or more of the following: (1) research or scholarly activity; (2) teaching, instruction; (3) extension, service, or outreach;
• International reputation in specialty area, successful grantsmanship at regional and national levels, and active involvement in appropriate scientific societies;
• Familiarity with the Land Grant philosophy/mission;
• Possess effective communication skills with a variety of audiences;
• Ability to effectively manage departmental personnel and fiscal affairs of the Department with a commitment to financial transparency;
• Have the ability to contribute in meaningful ways to the diversity and intercultural goals of the Department and the University;
• Articulate a strategic vision and long-term goals for the Department.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

We seek a collegial leader with:

• Experience in assessing priorities, strategic planning and implementation, and adaptability to change in a multidisciplinary environment;

• Evidence of positive group leadership at the department level and/or in multi-investigator projects;

• Consensus building, interpersonal and leadership skills;

• Appreciation for the disciplinary breadth of the Department;

• Commitment to excellence in the three missions of a land grant university.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Compensation is competitive and will be based on experience and qualifications. The University of Tennessee offers a comprehensive benefits package to all regular employees, including health and dental insurance, life insurance and multiple retirement plans. Additional information can be found at http://humanresources.tennessee.edu/benefits/. 
NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

The Search Committee will review and continue to receive applications until an appointment is made. Nominations of qualified individuals are sought and should be sent via electronic means to the Chair of the Search committee at the address shown below. Nominations of prospective candidates from underrepresented groups are encouraged.

Applications will be reviewed beginning March 1, 2015. Applications should include: (1) a letter of application summarizing the applicant’s qualifications and vision of departmental leadership and (2) a comprehensive curriculum vitae. After initial screening, references will be solicited. Application materials should be submitted electronically as a single (preferably pdf) file sent via email attachment to Ms. Dawn Seigel (email: dbrown10@utk.edu).

Nominations and other inquiries should be addressed to:

Search Committee Chair
Scott Senseman, Ph.D.
Professor and Head
Department of Plant Sciences
2431 Joe Johnson Drive
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-4531
Phone: (865) 974-8033
email: ssensema@utk.edu

All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admissions without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status.

Eligibility and other terms and conditions of employment benefits at The University of Tennessee are governed by laws and regulations of the State of Tennessee, and this non-discrimination statement is intended to be consistent with those laws and regulations.

In accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The University of Tennessee affirmatively states that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities, and this policy extends to employment by the University.

Inquiries and charges of violation of Title VI (race, color, national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), ADA (disability), Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-3560, telephone (865) 974-2498 (V/TTY available) or 974-2440. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Office of Equity and Diversity.