



School of Biomedical Engineering Industry Advisory Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) will play an advisory role in shaping the School of Biomedical Engineering's (SBME's) education, research and translational strategy and activities by providing advice and guidance that will be implemented to align our education programs with the needs and trends of industry, and provide a forum for discussion on our research and translation strategy. The IAC is built on the backbone of two industry consultation nights (2019 and 2020), input from which has been used to refine SBME's undergraduate curriculum and inform strategic hiring, research responsiveness and translational activities.

Established in 2017, the SBME has seen significant growth, currently hosting 395 students, 33 faculty members, and 23 staff. Our five-year overarching goal is to be recognized as the top biomedical engineering program in Canada, and among the top 20 on the world stage. In line with our [strategic plan](#), we are focusing our efforts on growing and strengthening our training programs, research and translation activities, and community engagement. Our **research and translation** efforts are aimed at further building capacity, forging and expanding strong partnerships and collaborations, growing our venture incubation facility, and expanding supporting infrastructure. Recommendations from the IAC will help focus these efforts to ensure they are in alignment with, and are supportive of, our growing and vibrant industry ecosystem. On the education front, we are working toward recruiting top talent for our **graduate program**, strengthening the academic experience through cultivating partnerships and entrepreneurship opportunities, and building professional development initiatives. In further establishing our **undergraduate program**, we are working to expand student recruitment, implement pedagogical innovations, expand upon experiential learning, and evolve our undergraduate curriculum. In particular, our undergraduate program is currently undergoing the process of accreditation, which will allow our graduating students to become licensed with Canada's engineering regulators. We will look to the IAC to help us shape and improve our training programs as they continuously evolve. Pertaining to our undergraduate curriculum, feedback from the IAC will be an important component of our future accreditation cycles with the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB), likely after 2-3 years and every 5 years thereafter.

Composition

The IAC consists of 9-11 prominent members from industry, appointed for a two-year term (renewable), who bring different perspectives from industry sectors spanning our [education](#) and [research](#) areas of focus. Members have a vested interest in shaping the skills and capabilities of biomedical engineers, researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs, by providing advice, support and recommendations to the SBME team. In addition to members from industry, the IAC includes Drs. Peter Zandstra (SBME Director), Peter Cripton (Undergraduate Program Director), and Raquel De Souza (Partnerships Manager), and other members of the BME leadership team on an ad-hoc basis.

Activities

The IAC will meet quarterly. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings in 2021 will take place remotely via Zoom. Members are expected to participate in at least three meetings per year. The agenda will be set by SBME Director, Dr. Peter Zandstra, and the Undergraduate Program Director, Dr. Peter Cripton. As appropriate, other key SBME faculty and staff may be invited. The first



meeting will occur in February 2021, during which these Terms of Reference will be refined, and the goals of the IAC will be discussed in detail. Subsequent meetings will be used to update members on SBME's strategy and proposed changes, and to gather insights and recommendations.

Responsibilities

- Offer advice on strengthening the direction and activities of our research programs and new research initiatives in light of industry priorities and trends.
- Support the development and enhancement of a strong industrial network to address large-scale partnered research projects.
- Provide input on strategy and growth of SBME's Innovation Hub and research translation efforts.
- Provide advice and recommendations on curriculum strategy, refinement and evolution, based on current and future needs and trends of industry.
- Promote the SBME through industry and professional contacts, and assist in growing industry support for our co-op program and in soliciting industry projects for our capstone design teams.
- Recommend outstanding professionals to provide field and industrial experience as adjunct professors and student mentors.
- Suggest creative ways to further implement respect, equity, diversity and inclusion principles throughout SBME's activities and initiatives.