POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT (POSITION # 0001-2941)

Title: PROFESSOR AND CHAIR

Location: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING
INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (IFAS)
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA  32611-0570

Salary: COMMENSURATE WITH QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Position open to: Review of applications will begin on September 22, 2006 and continue until the position is filled

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
The Chair of the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering provides vision in planning, developing, and implementing departmental programs in teaching, research, and extension; intellectual and philosophical leadership of faculty, staff, and students for synergistic academic, research, extension, and outreach programs; leadership in recruiting and fostering academic growth and professional development of faculty, staff, and students; administration of the Department’s human and financial resources; and leadership for continued acquisition of internal and external resources.

The Chair administers state, national, and international programs of the Department, assigns responsibilities to faculty and staff, and evaluates their performance. The Chair represents departmental and faculty interests with administrators, other departments and units, outside agencies, state and federal agencies, partners and collaborators, and individuals and groups in industry. The Chair will collaborate with the Senior Vice President, Deans, Associate and Assistant Deans, other IFAS Chairs and Research and Education Center Directors, and other administrators in providing leadership for delivering integrated programs to meet the needs of students, extension clientele, research sponsors, and other stakeholders. The Chair is responsible for statewide leadership and administration of teaching, research and extension programs in the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department as well as coordination of agricultural and biological engineering programs at the UF/IFAS Research and Education Centers throughout the state. The Chair is also responsible for the administration and continued development of the Agricultural and Biological Engineering academic program through the College of Engineering and the Agricultural Operations Management and Packaging Science programs through the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Administrative duties include budgetary and personnel management related to the Department’s faculty, staff and students.

QUALIFICATIONS:
The Chair must have
- An earned doctorate in Agricultural and Biological Engineering or in a related engineering discipline;
- A record of distinction, outstanding scholarly achievement, and professional activities related to teaching, research, and/or extension that will qualify the individual to be a tenured full professor in the Department;
- Evidence of administrative ability to direct an academic department engaged in teaching, research, and extension activities at a major land-grant university;
- Evidence of ability to lead and manage multidisciplinary programs;
- Ability to provide visionary and progressive leadership;
- Demonstrable understanding of teaching, research, and extension priorities for agricultural and biological engineering;

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- Effective administrative leadership and managerial skills and documented experience in defining organizational objectives; developing strategic approaches to planning; managing human, fiscal, and physical resources; generating and managing grant funds in support of teaching, research, and extension; and securing private funds;
- Demonstrated ability to effectively listen, communicate, and represent the Department with administrators, agencies, and on- and off-campus interest groups;
- Strong commitment to undergraduate and graduate student recruitment and retention;
- Demonstrated ability to interact well with students, faculty, staff, administrators, and external stakeholders within the university and state, federal, and international levels;
- Commitment to continued personal professional development for self and faculty and staff; Commitment to international programs; and Strong support and understanding of the mission of a land-grant university;
- Registration as a professional engineer is desired.

GENERAL INFORMATION:
The Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department has 32 faculty positions, 27 at the University location in Gainesville and 5 at Agricultural Research and Education Centers around the state. The annual operating budget of the Department is between $5.5 and $6.0 million. The Center for Remote Sensing within the department is supported by a $2 million endowment. The Department is housed in a new building with state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories.

The Department offers the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABET accredited), Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Operations Management (ASABE approved), Master of Engineering, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy in both Agricultural and Biological Engineering and Agricultural Operations Management. Undergraduate enrollment (primarily upper division) includes approximately 155 Agricultural and Biological Engineering, 60 Agricultural Operations Management, and 25 Packaging Science majors. The graduate program includes an additional 82 Masters and Ph.D. students. The Department has strong research and extension programs that are well recognized at state, national and international levels. Program strengths include engineering, management, and modeling of agricultural, biological, and natural ecosystems. A systems approach and precision technologies are being applied to water, nutrient, pesticide, and waste management in diverse agricultural and natural ecosystems, including space-based systems. The faculty includes a Distinguished Professor, a Distinguished International Educator, four UF Research Foundation Professors, four Fulbright Scholars and five ASABE Fellows. The faculty has received numerous major national and international awards in recent years.

The University of Florida (http://www.ufl.edu) is a Land-Grant and Sea Grant institution, encompassing virtually all academic and professional disciplines, with an enrollment of more than 48,000 students. UF is a member of The Association of American Universities. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (http://ifas.ufl.edu) includes the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (http://cals.ufl.edu), the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station (http://research.ifas.ufl.edu), the Florida Cooperative Extension Service (http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu), and the College of Veterinary Medicine (http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu), and encompasses 15 academic departments and the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, 9 interdisciplinary centers, 13 research and educational centers throughout the state, and Cooperative Extension units in each of Florida's 67 counties and the Seminole Tribe. The UF Water Institute was recently created to enhance the cross-campus and external linkages among the more than 250 UF faculty members conducting water-related studies in more than 50 Departments and Centers. The School of Natural Resources and Environment is an interdisciplinary unit housed in IFAS and managed by several colleges on campus. IFAS employs over 3400 people, which includes approximately 950 faculty and 2450 support personnel located in Gainesville and throughout the state. IFAS, one of the nation’s largest agricultural and natural resources research and education organizations, is administered by a Senior Vice President and four deans: the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Dean for Extension and Director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, the Dean for Research and Director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine. UF/IFAS also engages in cooperative work with Florida A&M University in Tallahassee.

The University is located in Gainesville, a city of 125,000, situated in North Central Florida midway between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. The city provides a metropolitan atmosphere with many activities sponsored by the local community and University.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS:
This position will be filled by the end of 2006, or as soon thereafter as an acceptable applicant is available. The salary for the Department Chair will be commensurate with experience and qualifications of the successful candidate.
NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS:
Both nominations and applications are welcome. Nominations need to include the complete name and address of the nominee and should be received by September 8, 2006, to allow us sufficient time to contact the nominee.

Individuals wishing to apply should submit the following materials:
- Letter of application that states applicant’s interest in the position, qualifications relative to the credentials listed above, previous professional responsibilities and achievements, administrative philosophy, and how these relate to the Chairs’ position. The letter should include the applicant’s general strategy for building and sustaining this department;
- Include a list of all technical and non-technical publications.
- Complete vita (which includes statement of current position and responsibilities);
- Official transcripts showing all coursework and degrees conferred; and
- The name, address, telephone and facsimile numbers, and electronic mail address of five persons to serve as references. The references should be knowledgeable about the applicant’s qualities that would make him or her well suited to the responsibilities described in this announcement.

Review of application materials will begin on September 22, 2006, and will continue until a suitable applicant is identified. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Contact Information and Application and Nomination Submission Information

Questions regarding the position may be directed to:

Dr. Edward Osborne, Professor and Chair
Department of Agricultural Education and Communication
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
University of Florida
P.O. Box 110540
Gainesville, FL 32611-0540

Telephone: +1.352.392.0502 ext. 231
Facsimile: +1.352.392.9585
Electronic Mail: ewo@ufl.edu

Nominations and applications should be forwarded to:

Department Chair for Agricultural and Biological Engineering Search
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
IFAS Office of Human Resources
University of Florida
2038 McCarty Hall
P.O. Box 110281
Gainesville, FL 32611-0281

Telephone: +1.352.392.4777
Facsimile: +1.352.392.3226
Electronic Mail: ewallace@ufl.edu

The University of Florida is an equal opportunity, equal access, affirmative action employer. The “government in the sunshine” laws of Florida require that all documents relating to the search process, including letters of application/nomination and reference, be available for public inspection. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.