Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Yousef Al-Assaf has accepted our offer to become the next president of RIT Dubai, effective February 1, 2013. Dr. Al-Assaf is currently professor of engineering and dean of the College of Engineering at the American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. He has held this position since 2006 and has overseen a substantial enrollment increase in engineering students; the addition of several new academic programs; ABET accreditation; and numerous partnerships with local and regional industries and institutions. This experience, combined with his skill set, makes him an extraordinary leader for RIT Dubai.

After obtaining his Ph.D. from Oxford University in 1988, Dr. Al-Assaf was appointed as the chair of the industrial engineering department at the University of Jordan and was a pioneer in establishing the Engineering Outreach Program which won various awards for bridging academia with industry and service sectors, as well as the community in general. Dr. Al-Assaf joined the American University of Sharjah in 1998 and assumed the College of Engineering deanship in 2006. Dr. Al-Assaf’s research interests vary; his primary interest is in using soft computing tools to model and control various industrial and biomedical systems. Additionally, Dr. Al-Assaf has been a consultant for various industries working towards optimizing their operations and manufacturing systems.

With the aid of the search firm Witt-Keiffer, Dr. Al-Assaf’s appointment follows a very rigorous search and selection process that included a diverse pool of candidates from all over the world. The search committee felt that Dr. Al-Assaf’s commitment to delivering a career-oriented education for the region, his sense of values, and his experience will make him an exceptional leader for the next phase of RIT Dubai. I personally look forward to working with Yousef and I ask that you please join me in welcoming Dr. Al-Assaf to the RIT family.

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