College of Engineering & Physical Sciences
Faculty Request To Search during AY 2026-2027

1. Department: Energy and Petroleum Engineering

2. Proposed faculty rank: Assistant Professor of Practice (None-tenure Track) – Position/Priority 3

3. a. Proposed maximum salary: $120,000 (adjustable based on market conditions)

3. b. OSU Faculty Salary Survey salaries at the requested rank for these categories:

$ All Combined: $84,323 -$148,000
$ Tenure / Tenure Track: $93,204 -$148,000
$ Doctoral Universities – Very High Research: $84,323 -$148,000
$ Region 1: $84,323 -$93,435
$ Non-Tenure Track: $49,092 - $177,747

4. OSU Faculty Salary Survey CIP code and associated discipline:

14.2501 – Petroleum Engineering

5. Proposed job description: Professor of Practice in Energy and Petroleum Engineering with extensive industry experience in petroleum and subsurface energy operations. Preferred expertise includes drilling and completions, production engineering, reservoir development, field operations, or integrated asset management. Responsibilities include delivering undergraduate and graduate courses with a strong emphasis on practice-based learning, teaching core courses such as senior design/capstone, mentoring students on industry-relevant projects, and supporting the M.Eng. program through applied and potentially online instruction. The position will also strengthen industry engagement by facilitating partnerships, guest lectures, internships, and collaborative projects, and will contribute to interdisciplinary educational initiatives across CEPS and SER.

6. Retirement/resignation history:

(a) One Professor of Practice retired (Dr. Brian Toelle) (loss of one Tier-1 faculty line)
(b) One Full Professor (Dr. Vamegh Rasouli) resigned from UW and moved to UT-Arlington (loss of one tenure-track faculty line).
(c) One Professor of Practice (Dr. Douglas Cuthbertson) transferred to UW Foundation then retired (loss of one Tier-1 faculty line)
(d) Two Full Professors (Dr. Maohong Fan and Dr. Hertanto Adidharma) transferred to the department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering due to better alignment with teaching and research (loss of two tenure-track faculty lines)

7. Hiring history:

- One Professor of Practice (Dr. Hazim Abass) was hired to replace position (a)
- Ongoing faculty search to hire an Assistant professor as a replacement for position (b)

8. Estimated startup for this position: Not applicable

9. Special considerations: Potential for joint collaboration with SER and cross-college initiatives (AI, subsurface systems, energy transition). Position aligns M.Eng. program and undergraduate teaching.

Justification

The department is currently operating with a **lean faculty structure**, while simultaneously experiencing growth in both undergraduate and graduate programs, including the expansion of the M.Eng. program. In addition to research and graduate advising responsibilities, tenure-track faculty are increasingly stretched to deliver practice-oriented, industry-relevant instruction, particularly in courses that require significant field experience and applied knowledge.

Several core components of the curriculum—such as senior design, drilling and completions, production operations, and field development planning—require extensive industry experience to be delivered effectively. These courses are essential for preparing students to transition directly into the workforce and are highly valued by employers and industry partners. A Professor of Practice brings the practical expertise, real-world perspective, and professional networks necessary to enhance the quality and relevance of these offerings.

This need is further amplified by recent faculty changes. Over the past several years, the department has lost multiple experienced instructional faculty, including Professors of Practice, resulting in reduced capacity to deliver hands-on, practice-driven education. Rebuilding this capability is essential to maintaining the department's reputation for producing industry-ready graduates.

The position also directly supports the M.Eng. program, which is designed for working professionals and emphasizes applied, industry-focused learning. A Professor of Practice can play a central role in:

- Delivering practice-based courses aligned with industry needs
- Supporting flexible and online course offerings
- Strengthening connections with industry partners for projects, internships, and guest lectures

From a strategic standpoint, this position aligns with CEPS 2030 priorities, particularly:

- Enhancing workforce development and industry engagement
- Expanding professionally oriented graduate education
- Strengthening the college's role in supporting Wyoming's energy sector

From a state perspective, petroleum engineering remains a cornerstone of Wyoming's economy, and there is continued demand for graduates who are not only technically strong but also operationally prepared. A Professor of Practice ensures that students develop the practical competencies and decision-making skills required in real-world field environments.

Without this position, there is increased risk to:

- The quality and effectiveness of capstone and design courses
- The department's ability to deliver industry-relevant training
- The overall workforce readiness of graduates

In summary, the Professor of Practice position is a targeted and high-impact investment that will:

1. Restore critical instructional capacity in practice-based courses
2. Strengthen industry alignment and workforce preparation
3. Support the continued growth of the M.Eng. and applied learning programs

Table 2. EPE student Enrollment by year.

Year	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Undergraduate	49	47	40	44	62
Graduate	49	56	60	59	74