

F&S Welcomes Dr. Mohamed Attalla

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO FOCUS ON TEAM BUILDING, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND COLLABORATION



F&S Executive Director Dr. Mohamed Attalla

As the university welcomed thousands of new students to campus in August, the Facilities & Services team welcomed a new executive director.

Dr. Mohamed Attalla, formerly the assistant vice president and chief facilities officer for McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, will lead the more than 1,000 employees who work to provide and maintain a physical environment that supports the learning, discovery, engagement, and economic development at the University of Illinois.

Attalla brings more than 33 years of construction and facilities experience to his new role—and he has hit the ground running.

“My initial efforts will be focused on building our team, improving relationships with our campus customers, ensuring financial accountability through performance metrics, and collaborating with the academic community,” Attalla says.

Those efforts begin by getting out and meeting F&S employees across divisions. “The first step in building a strong team is to listen to our colleagues and to build trust and transparency among ourselves,” says Attalla. “I will be visiting our facility offices and want to hear from our employees about what they view as the strengths of our organization, as well as where we need to improve.”

Campus stakeholders will also be an important voice in the conversation about how F&S can best meet its mission. “In addition to listening to our staff, it will be very important to gather feedback from our customers,” Attalla says. “The information they provide will be very valuable in determining how we concentrate our efforts and will inform our strategy for how to deliver our services in alignment with the university’s new strategic plan.”

It will require a team approach. “We need to challenge ourselves by examining our service levels, by measuring our progress, and by benchmarking ourselves against our peers,” he continues. “We need to provide the data that our campus customers want and need to make their decisions, and we need to continue to expand opportunities to collaborate with the academic and the research community, not only by providing an environment that is conducive to learning but also by collaborating on research projects with our students and faculty, both in the lab and in the classroom.”

Attalla welcomes the challenge. “I am looking forward to getting to know the university and F&S community and building a strong, cohesive facilities team that is very much aligned with the university’s mission and vision.”



Dr. Attalla with Dr. Lyndon Goodly, director of the Division of Animal Resources (left) and Melvin Boatner, associate director F&S, Human Resources and Payroll (right). Attalla is meeting with campus stakeholders throughout the fall semester to gather customer feedback on F&S services.