As AVP, I+P, Professor Coulombe’s primary mandate will be to support the overall mission of advancing research excellence at McGill while also increasing research performance and research intensity at the University. His duties will include overseeing the Office of Innovation and Partnerships within R&I, with the goal of driving University progress in technology transfer and partnership programs with industry. He will also play a leading role in developing large-scale institutional initiatives and major funding proposals for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and other areas related to this portfolio.

Professor Coulombe brings to the role extensive experience in technology development as well as a strong background in supporting strategic academic-industry partnerships. A former senior research scientist and project leader for GE Global Research (1997-2001), Professor Coulombe joined McGill in 2001, serving as Chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering from 2012 to 2018. He was the Canada Research Chair in Non-Thermal Plasma Processing from 2002 to 2012 and has been a Gerald Hatch Faculty Fellow since 2015. His contributions to research and development have resulted in numerous reports of invention and patent applications. Recognized for excellence in graduate supervision with the 2010 Carrie M. Derick Award, his contributions to the academic community have strengthened the knowledge base and influenced the direction of research at the University.