Dean Gregory Washington joined The Henry Samueli School of Engineering in August 2011. Under his leadership, the school has increased its faculty ranks and numbers of students. He instituted a popular freshman experiential learning program that gives engineering students a taste of real-world product development. In 2015, he chaired UCI’s Task Force on Ensuring a Positive Climate for the Campus’s African American Community. A professor of mechanical engineering, he investigates smart material systems, smart electromagnetic systems and hybrid electric vehicles. Washington holds bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in mechanical engineering from North Carolina State University.