



Bristol Ellington, AICP

Message from the Chair, Bristol Ellington, AICP

Happy New Year! I am honored to be the incoming chairman for the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB). I initially served on the PAB as a site visitor starting in 2004, serving on seven site visits. Since December 1, 2017, I have served as a PAB Board Member, now serving the beginning of my second 3-year term and as chairman for the next two years.

During these unprecedented times, it has still been the mission of PAB to promote excellence among planning programs and ensure high quality education for future urban planners. Since the pandemic, a total of nine virtual site visits were conducted, with another nine virtual visits scheduled for Spring 2021. While the virtual processes are temporary, PAB will review the feedback received from Programs and Site Visitors to determine what the future of PAB visits may look like.

As we begin a new year with renewed hope and direction, PAB will continue to advance its mission and core values: Stewardship, Collaboration, Communication, Integrity, and Leadership. Major initiatives over the year include: complete the redesign of the PAB website; configuration of an accreditation management system to maximize operational efficiencies and provide added value to our stakeholders; and the standards review and revision.

Every 5 years or earlier, PAB reviews its accreditation standards to ensure they are reflective of the profession and the academy. This process for standard review and revision does not occur in a vacuum. As with past standards revisions, PAB is committed to obtaining feedback from all its stakeholders - planning educators, planning practitioners, students, higher administrators, our sponsoring organizations, and the public. The standards are not only PAB's, but they are the standards of the profession and the academy.

Have a safe year and be sure to social distance, wear your mask and wash your hands!

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Important Dates

January— March

Spring 2021 Site Visits

January 31—Extended Feb. 16

Annual Report due for all Programs

March 11—12

[ACSP Administrator's Conference Virtual](#)

April 29—May 1

PAB Virtual Spring Board Meeting

May 5—May 7

[APA National Conference - Online](#)

June 15

Draft Self-Study Report due for programs with fall 2021 Site Visits

July 1

Progress Reports Due (if applicable)

September 15

Draft Self-Study Report due for programs with spring 2022 Site Visits

Shape the Future of Planning Standards Review

PAB has begun the process of reviewing the standards by which it evaluates degree programs for accreditation and the procedures by which it carries out this responsibility. Comprehensive review and development of standards occurs approximately every five years, but may occur more frequently at the Board's discretion. During this process, PAB involves each of its stakeholders and the public in reviewing all aspects of the accreditation standards.

A [special purpose task force](#) composed of representatives from ACSP, APA, AICP and PAB was formed to assist with the review and revision of the 2017 accreditation standards. Since October 2020, the Accreditation Standards Review task force has conducted 6 public forums via Zoom to gather input on the current standards. The task force is also conducting an online survey to solicit additional suggestions to the standards and preconditions to accreditation. We invite everyone to use this survey as an opportunity to have input into the process. Please complete the survey by **March 12, 2021**.

[Participate Now - Take the Survey](#)

Based on its findings, the task force will recommend revisions to the standards and release a first draft for public comment. PAB's process requires two 30-day public comment periods. View Section 9 of the [Policies and Procedures](#) manual (p.32) to learn more about the accreditation standards review process and visit the [PAB Website](#) to stay up to date.



Reflections from the Past Chair, Dr. Connie Ozawa

The past two years have flown by. It is frankly hard to remember much before Covid-19 hit the country in early spring, but sitting here reflecting on what the PAB has accomplished is heartwarming, and owed to all of you, the PAB staff, and my colleagues on the Board. Thank you!

We have all had to adapt quickly to the pandemic and I am so appreciative of the cooperative spirit that pervaded the Board's activities. Routines were disrupted. Site visits scheduled for March 2020, were canceled. The Board and staff worked quickly to revise instructions and processes for the virtual world. Site visitors and programs were flexible and accommodating. Spring and fall board meetings transitioned to the online format. We all survived, and in all, 10 programs were reaccredited, 2 programs were granted initial accreditation and 1 program gained candidacy status (in 2020).

Looking ahead is inherent in our nature as planners, but equally important to our work is acknowledgement of our past achievements. Looking back, 2019 and 2020 were remarkably productive years. In addition to the routine functions (reviewing 30 programs), PAB's Task Force on Innovation and Communication in Planning Education, chaired by Alex Lieber, collected input from practitioners and academics at the annual meetings and through surveys to help understand better the value of accreditation to the academy and the profession. The report on the [Value of Accreditation](#) (2020) and the task force's [Report on Innovation](#) (2019) will inform PAB's upcoming discussions on standards. Under the leadership of Ed Goetz, the review of the accreditation standards began in fall 2020 with the appointment of an advisory task force that includes non-Board volunteers from ACSP and APA/AICP. The revision of the accreditation standards is key to ensuring our programs flourish in a changing social, economic and political landscape. We all should look forward to continuing conversations on our accreditation standards, cognizant of the desire to elevate our values while recognizing the distinct variations among our programs.

Although I am grateful for the ease of the changes, I am also deeply regretful that my meetings with the Board and ACSP colleagues has occurred through my computer screen and not face-to-face. Here's hoping that 2021 will bring us all back together in person!

Thank you

Connie Ozawa, Ph.D. (above) for your years of service on the Board (2014-2017), years as PAB Chair (2018-2020), and dedication to planning education.

Board Member News

Effective December 1, 2020 Bristol Ellington, AICP is the new Chair of PAB and Ed Goetz, Ph.D. is the new Vice Chair.

Fall 2020 Board Meeting

During the Board Meeting, PAB granted accreditation to the following programs:

- ◆ **Auburn University**
Master of Community Planning
- ◆ **Jackson State University**
Master of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning
- ◆ **University of Hawaii at Manoa**
Master of Urban and Regional Planning
- ◆ **University of South Florida**
Master of Urban and Regional Planning
- ◆ **University of Virginia**
Bachelor of Urban and Environmental Planning
Master of Urban and Environmental Planning
- ◆ **Western Washington University**
Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning and Sustainable Development

Additional details are available on [Accredited Planning Programs directory](#). Please contact the program directly for in-depth information regarding programs, course offerings, and compliance with PAB standards.

Candidacy Status granted to the following program effective January 1, 2021:

- ◆ **West Chester University**
Bachelor of Science in Urban and Environmental Planning



(Top left to right) Connie Ozawa, Ph.D., Edward Goetz, Ph.D., Mitch Thrower, CPA, David Salazar, FAICP, Zenia Kotval, Ph.D., FAICP, Bristol Ellington, AICP, Alex Lieber, AICP, Jesmarie Johnson, & Jaclyn Hade.

Incoming Board Member - ACSP appointee (2020–2023) Weiping Wu, Ph.D.

Weiping Wu is a Professor in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia GSAPP and Director of the M.S. Urban Planning program. She also is on the faculty of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute and Columbia Population Research Center. Before joining Columbia in 2016, she was Professor and Chair in the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University. She was the President of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) during 2017-19. She is an internationally acclaimed urban and planning scholar working on global urbanization with a specific expertise in issues of migration, housing, and infrastructure of Chinese cities. Her publications include eight books, and her recent book *The Chinese City* has gained an increasing public presence.



ACSP Administrator's Conference

The ACSP Administrator's Conference and New Chairs School will be hosted virtually this year during March 11-12, 2021. There will be an associated PAB Program Administrator Orientation session on March 16th, time to be determined.

[Virtual Schedule](#)



The Communications Task Force is working on a new and improved PAB Website. Coming this Spring!

Thank You to all Fall 2020 Virtual Site Visit Teams

Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, PAB temporarily adapted its processes to conduct Site Visits virtually. Through the dedication and commitment of 27 Site Visitors, we were able to safely review 12 programs at 9 institutions.

Site Visit Team Chairs

Linda Dalton, Ph.D., FAICP
 Dave Marcouiller, Ph.D.
 Robert Olshansky, Ph.D., FAICP
 George Rogers, Ph.D.
 Stephanie Rolley, FASLA, FCELA, PLA, AICP
 Thomas Sanchez, Ph.D.
 Brenda Scheer, FAIA, FAICP
 Ruth Steiner, Ph.D.
 Bruce Stiftel, Ph.D., FAICP

Site Visit Team Members

Richard Bickel, FAICP	Ramona Mattix, AICP
Steve Bourassa, Ph.D.	Kathleen McCabe, FAICP
Lee Brown, FAICP	Sarah More, FAICP
Arnab Chakraborty, Ph.D., AICP	Henry Renski, Ph.D.
Timothy Chapin, Ph.D.	David Wade, AICP, CUD
Ana Gelabert-Sanchez, AICP	Xinhao Wang, Ph. D., AICP
Kristin Larsen, Ph.D., AICP	Charles Warnken, Ph. D., AICP
David Lewis, Ph.D.	Mark Wilson, Ph.D.
Cheryl Matheny, FAICP	Elizabeth Via-Gossman, FAICP



2020 Outstanding Site Visitor Award Recipients

Susan Bradbury, Ph.D. (left) &
 Ramona Mattix, AICP (right)



To submit content for future editions, please contact editor Jaclyn Hade via [email](mailto:jaclyn.hade@pab.org).