Planning Education and Digital Evolution

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Vice Chair, Planning Accreditation Board (PAB)
AKRF, Inc.

ACSP 2020 Annual Conference
Introductions

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Professor and Associate Dean for Research
Rutgers University

Weiping Wu, PhD
Professor and Director
Columbia University
Planning Accreditation Board (PAB)

- **Mission:** *To promote excellence among planning programs and ensure high quality education for future urban planners.*

- 8 Board Members, appointed by APA, AICP and ACSP
- 75 master’s and 16 bachelor’s degrees at 79 North American Universities
Innovation and Communication in Planning Education Task Force

- Representatives from PAB, APA, ACSP, and a student representative
- PAB Goals (2017-2022 Strategic Plan): *Promote and encourage a culture of innovation in program content and delivery*
  - Emerging issues facing planning education and issues that planners must be prepared for in a professional setting
  - Are planning programs adjusting to changes in the profession and the evolving role of planners?
  - Are there innovations in the profession or new skills that planners may require that are not being effectively taught in planning schools?
Report on Innovation

➢ Emerging Trends in Planning Practice and Education
  ➢ Trends in Higher Education—technology/distance learning; “return on investment”; financial pressures and decreased funding
  ➢ Trends in the Planning Profession—uncertain and contentious political world; engagement in broader political and social issues; need for enhanced cultural competencies; new technology

➢ Available on the PAB website News & Events section:
Planning Education and Digital Evolution

- **New technology** is being made available to planners and becoming more prominent in the field. GIS is now considered a core competency for planners, and the use of social media and data analytics are growing. **Critically, the potential of technological innovations is a major motivation for many students interested in planning.**

- How can accredited programs better train their students? What are the knowledge, skills, and values necessary in this 21st century technology-focused world?
Planning Education and Digital Evolution

- Balance of soft skills and hard skills
  - Planners require enhanced cultural competencies and the ability to work with marginalized populations.
  - Communication and “storytelling,” negotiation and consensus building, and collaborative skills ... to better prepare planners to work in their communities.

- Emerging use of technology in the field

- Long term trends and effects of online/remote learning
 Standards are revisited every 5 years to ensure their effectiveness and relevance to the profession.

- Recognize that improvements will always be desired; some minor or editorial, others more substantive.

- The amendment process takes time: almost TWO years to draft revisions and receive two sets of comments from the constituent groups.

- Ensures input from stakeholder groups in the process

- 2023 Accreditation Standards Review Task Force
# PAB Standards Revisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2020 – February 2021</td>
<td>Background, data gathering on existing standards. Compilation and analysis of data to inform first draft of standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>October – November</td>
<td><strong>PAB Public Forums via Zoom</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>February – April 2021</td>
<td><strong>PAB Standards Taskforce development of draft standards</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April – June 2021</td>
<td><strong>PAB review and comment period for TF draft standards. PAB approves internal draft 1 of standards. TF revisions as necessary.</strong></td>
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<td>June 2021</td>
<td><strong>PAB introduces draft 1 of standards.</strong></td>
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<td>June – July 2021</td>
<td>First 30-day comment period (All comments posted to PAB website) Advisory recommendations from AICP Commission in consultation with the APA Board, and the ACSP Governing Board submitted to PAB.</td>
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<td>July – September 2021</td>
<td><strong>PAB Standards Taskforce review comments and develop draft 2 of standards. PAB reviews and approves internal draft 2 of standards (September)</strong></td>
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<td>September 2021 (APA fall leadership Meetings) October 21 – 24, 2021 (ACSP conference)</td>
<td><strong>PAB introduces Draft 2 of Amendment to Accreditation Standards</strong></td>
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<td>December 2021</td>
<td>Second 30-day comment period. (All comments posted to PAB website) Advisory recommendations from AICP Commission in consultation with the APA Board, and the ACSP Governing Board submitted to PAB.</td>
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<td>January – April 2022</td>
<td><strong>PAB Board review of comments and finalization of standards. PAB reviews and approves final Accreditation Standards (April)</strong></td>
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<td>April/May 2022</td>
<td><strong>PAB reports to sponsoring organizations that it has approved the accreditation standards and shares final document</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2023</td>
<td>Effective date of implementation of Standards</td>
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PAB Standards Revisions

2023 Accreditation Standards Review—Zoom Public Sessions

1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
   Thursday, October 29, 10:30 a.m. – Noon Central Time Zone

2. Accreditation Standards 2 & 3: Students and Faculty
   Saturday, November 7, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Central Time Zone

3. Accreditation Standards 1 & 5: Strategic Planning and Progress, Governance
   Thursday, November 12, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Central Time Zone

4. Accreditation Standard 4: Curriculum
   Thursday, November 19, Noon – 1:30 p.m. Central Time Zone

5. Open Topics
   Tuesday, November 24, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Central Time Zone

Forum registration available at www.planningaccreditationboard.org

All input is welcome at any of the forums.