



PLANNING ACCREDITATION BOARD – SPRING 2020 REPORT TO AICP, APA, and ACSP

3/16/2021

ACSP, AICP and APA minutes must document acceptance of PAB report for compliance with Iowa not-for-profit law

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

About PAB: PAB is a standalone 501(c)3 organization jointly sponsored by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), the American Planning Association (APA), and APA's professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). This collaboration reflects an assumption that all parties to the planning enterprise – practitioners, educators, students, elected officials and citizens – have a vital stake in the quality of the nation's programs of planning education. Sponsoring organizations appoint the 8-member board and match-fund the operations. Recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), PAB is also a member of the Association of Professional and Specialized Accreditors (ASPA) and adheres to its Member Code of Good Practice.

Accreditation is a system for recognizing educational institutions and professional programs for performance, integrity and quality. This recognition is extended primarily through non-governmental, voluntary associations. Accreditors establish standards for accreditation, arrange peer-reviewed visits, evaluate institutions and professional programs, and confer a specific term of accreditation.

PAB currently accredits 93 planning programs (78 graduate and 15 undergraduate) at 80 North American universities.

REQUEST FOR BOARD MEMBER REAPPOINTMENT

Terms for one ACSP and one AICP appointee will expire November 30, 2021: Zenia Kotval, Ph.D., FAICP (ACSP Planning Educator) and Alexander K. Lieber, AICP (AICP Young Planner). Both are serving a second term, and are not eligible for reappointment. The Planning Educator shall have had PAB Site Visitor training and experience prior to the beginning of their term. The Young Planner appointee shall be a graduate of a PAB-accredited program and less than 35 years at the beginning of their term.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Accreditation Standards Review and Revision

PAB periodically reviews and revises 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. PAB's Amendment and Revision Procedures can be found [here](#).

The PAB Accreditation Standards Review Task Force, chaired by Ed Goetz, held 6 public zoom forums from October to November 2020. The TF conducted an online survey on the current accreditation standards from February 7 through March 12, 2021.

The Task force will synthesize the many comments and PAB background data to develop recommendations for revision of the standards. Draft 1 of the standards will be developed and released in spring 2021. PAB will share the draft standards with ACSP, APA and AICP leadership, as well as our various stakeholders. PAB is committed to ensuring all stakeholders are involved in the accreditation review and revision process, therefore, our process includes two 30-day public comment periods. Greater detail on the timeline will be shared once PAB has approved Draft 1 of the Standards.

B. PAB Annual Report and Program Response to COVID-19

In the 2020 Annual Report, programs provided information on the temporary modifications made during spring and fall 2020, as well as the universities response to covid-19. The aggregate data is available in Appendix A of this report.

The PAB Annual Report, which contains aggregate student and faculty data (beyond COVID-19 information), will be available on the [PAB website](#) in the summer.

C. **Technology Investment**

As part of its [2017 – 2022 Strategic Plan](#), PAB is investing in technology solutions to maximize operational efficiencies and provide added value to our stakeholders. (Strategic goals 4, 6, and 7)

New PAB Website: PAB’s current website is approximately 15 years old. PAB’s new website is expected to launch in April 2021. The new website is designed to better communicate the value of accreditation, as well as the value of planning education and the profession.

Accreditation Management Software: With a two-person staff and volunteer board of 8 members, it is critical that we have a fully-integrated accreditation management system (AMS) to better manage workflow, artifacts, enable continuous improvement, and engage and easily communicate the various phases of accreditation to accredited programs and peer-reviewers. We have signed on with Armature and configuration of Armature Fabric is underway. It is expected we will be able to rollout the system slowly next year.

D. **Site Visitor Recruitment**

PAB’s goal is to have a diverse and qualified pool of volunteers to represent PAB. The Site Visitor Committee continues to request nominees with administration experience; full professors (or associate professors likely to achieve full professor in short period of time), as we try to increase the pipeline of SVT Chairs. Attached as Appendix B is the volunteer participation rate by institution. Note that several institutions have Site Visitor participation rates below average relative to faculty size.

E. **Noteworthy Practices**

PAB continues to collect and update notable practices by Programs twice a year during the accreditation reviews. By the end of March, the [Noteworthy Practices page](#) of the PAB website will be updated with two new notable practices: 1) Auburn University: 2B / Student Diversity; and 2) University of South Florida: 3F / Student Engagement in the Profession

OPERATIONAL DATA - Financial Performance

Redacted

BOARD ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS

	Fall 2018 – Spring 2019	Fall 2019 – Spring 2020	Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
Site Visits	13	12	18 (virtual)
Re-Accreditation Reviews	14	11	13
Initial Accreditation Reviews	2	2	-
Candidacy Applications	2	1	-
Progress Reports	1	6	5
Annual Reports	90	91	92

Site Visits (SV) – Site Visit Team (SVT - 2 educators and 1 practitioner) spends 2.5 days on campus meeting with faculty, administrators, students, etc., and write a report of findings (Site Visit Report, or SVR).

[Re] and [Initial] Accreditation Reviews – Board reviews SVR, program’s comprehensive Self-Study Report (SSR), etc., meets with SVT and program chair; votes on accreditation term up to 7 years. The board’s fall and spring 2020 meeting were conducted virtually.

Candidacy Application – Board review of program materials and meeting with program chair. Candidacy is a 2-year term only, during which time the program must have a SV and undergo initial accreditation review.

Progress Report –Comprehensive mid-term report on specific accreditation criteria and issues; extension of accreditation sometimes possible

Annual Report –Mandatory for each program as of 12/31; reporting of material change and data on faculty and students. Also includes the review of program’s websites for compliance with PAB criterion 1F / Public Information

For a summary of the Board’s recent accreditation decisions, please visit the [PAB website](#). A list of upcoming accreditation and progress report reviews can be found on the [News & Events](#) page of the PAB website.

PAB BOARD MEMBERS – TERMS AND APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

Bristol S. Ellington, AICP - Chair
Assistant City Manager
City of Henderson
Henderson, NV 89015
AICP Planning Practitioner appointee 2017-2023

Edward Goetz, Ph.D. – Vice Chair
Professor
Urban and Regional Planning Program
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55455
ACSP Planning Educator appointee 2016 – 2022

Zenia Kotval, Ph.D., FAICP (1)
Professor and Program Director
Urban and Regional Planning Programs
School of Planning, Design and Construction
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48823
ACSP Planning Educator appointee 2015 – 2021

Alexander K. Lieber, AICP (1)
Technical Director
AKRF, Inc.
New York, NY 10016
AICP Young Planner appointee 2015 – 2021

David Salazar, FAICP
Founder, Executive Director
Long Beach Community Design
Long Beach, California 90808
AICP Planning Practitioner appointee 2019 - 2021

Dawn G. Terkla, Ph.D.
Associate Provost
Tufts University
Medford, MA 02155
ACSP Higher Education Administrator appointee 2019 - 2022

Mitch Thrower, CPA
Senior Manager
Hillsborough County Aviation Authority
Tampa, FL 33624
APA Public Member Appointee 2017-2022

Weiping Wu, Ph.D.
Professor and Director
Urban Planning Program
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027
ACSP Planning Educator Appointee 2020-2023

(1) Second term for Kotval and Lieber. Both are not eligible for reappointment.