



ACSP

Connecting educators,
researchers and students

August 31, 2021

Dear Planning Accreditation Board and Standards Review Task Force:

Thank you for the efforts you have put into the proposed revisions to the PAB accreditation standards. We appreciate the care and hard work with which you have conducted this process, as well as the opportunity to comment on the draft revisions.

Our own process for providing comments, as the ACSP Executive Committee, was to request that our 10 Regional Representatives solicit feedback from the member schools in their 5 respective regions. We requested that any feedback shared with them be sent to us by August 20.

Only one region (Northeast) sent comments. We believe that many schools will likely send you comments directly. The two comments that we received from our Northeast region member programs are:

- 1) "I do have a comment I'd be interested in having ACSP take up. What worries me is the proposed language about the program director not needing to be tenured. I know it is to deal with some programs where a virtually permanent lecturer has that role (I think of MIT and UMass Amherst). However, I feel by making it the rule rather than the exception it is providing too much of an opportunity for deans to say they can fill their planning programs with those who are untenured. Having to have a tenured program director is one of the few pieces of leverage programs have in some schools in terms of having to have tenure-track faculty in planning, and needing to actually promote them. Untenured program directors will also be by definition in weaker positions to bargain with deans. It just seems misguided."
- 2) "The attempt to make exhaustive lists of various protected minority or underrepresented classes generally failed in the document, in many cases omitting religious minority (spirituality is not a synonym for religion). Better would be to avoid the long lists and just use more generic language which allows each program to ensure that all protected and underrepresented groups are supported, mentored, and recruited affirmatively for both faculty/staff positions and for the student body."

As the ACSP Executive Committee, we present these two comments without endorsement or rejection. As individuals, we endorse the recommendations within the letter that you will receive from the ACSP Climate Change Task Force. We ask you, as individuals and as the ACSP executive committee, to carefully review the ACSP Climate Action Task Force's letter. But, without more opportunity to consult with our member schools, we do not feel comfortable speaking for the entire organization on any of the details of the proposed revisions.



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We thank you, once again, for the work you have done.

Sincerely,

Marlon G. Boarnet, ACSP President
Laxmi Ramasubramanian, ACSP Vice-President/President-Elect
Stacey White, ACSP Secretary
Michael Boswell, ACSP Treasurer