



PLANNING ACCREDITATION BOARD – SPRING 2022 REPORT TO AICP, APA, and ACSP

3/17/2022

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 81 North American universities.

REQUEST FOR BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Terms for two ACSP and one AICP appointee will expire on November 30, 2022: Ed Goetz, Ph.D. (ACSP Planning Educator); Dawn Terkla, Ph.D. (ACSP Higher Education Administrator); and, David Salazar, FAICP (AICP Planning Practitioner). Ed Goetz and David Salazar will need to be replaced. Dawn Terkla is eligible for appointment for a 2nd term.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2022 Accreditation Standards

At its February 3, 2022, PAB voted to approve the revised PAB Accreditation Standards and Criteria. The [2022 Accreditation Standards](#) are effective January 1, 2023. All programs submitting Self-Study Reports in 2023 and thereafter are subject to the 2022 Accreditation Standards. This year, PAB will revise its Self-Study Report Manual and Template, Site Visit Manuals, and Site Visit training to align with the new standards.

Thank you to the PAB Accreditation Standards Review Task Force for the leading the effort in reviewing and revising the 2017 standards.

B. Site Visitor Recruitment

PAB sends a 3-member Site Visit Team (SVT) to a university to conduct an accreditation review. The SVT is composed of 2 planning educators and 1 professional planner. ACSP and AICP committees recruit and vet for their respective Presidential nominations to the Site Visitors for PAB review and acceptance. Application information for these groups is available on the [PAB website](#). The last big recruitment, in which nominees were presented for PAB review, was in 2018. As of March 2022, the pool of volunteers is in need of both professional planners and planning educators.

1. AICP: There are 57 practitioners in the pool. At this time, an ideal size for this pool would be about 60.

2. ACSP: There are 110 planning professors in the pool, which is a 10-year low. This is due to a number of professor emeriti retiring out of the pool in the last two years. As of March 2022, twenty-two institutions (27%) with PAB-accredited programs have no volunteer representation in the pool. Six of those institutions have been on this list

since at least 2018. Four institutions were added this year because the SV pool member either retired or transitioned to a new university. An ideal pool size, based on the 5-year average number of visits, would be a minimum of 136.

Appendix A contains useful information on the geographic representation of practitioner members of the Site Visitor Pool and institutional representation of educator members in the pool. We request AICP and ACSP committees focus on the geographic and institutional representation gaps, as well as, focus on diversity in terms of racial and ethnic groups historically underrepresented in the profession. Based on past results, recruitment efforts that included personal contact by the ACSP committee to targeted institutions made the greatest impact.

PAB will begin training focused on the new 2022 Accreditation Standards in the fall during the ACSP conference and continue training efforts through 2023. We would ask for ACSP nominations by September 1, 2022 and AICP nominations by February 1, 2023.

C. Accreditation Management Software

PAB continues configuration of its Accreditation Management System (Armature Fabric). Three programs with spring 2022 Site Visits beta-tested the online Self-Study Report module. For fall 2022 and spring 2023, seven additional programs will go through the online SSR module, as well as the Site Visit module. Based on feedback and user/staff experience, modifications will be made. We expect full implementation of the system during the 2023 accreditation cycle.

D. Noteworthy Practices

During accreditation reviews, Site Visit Teams and the Board continue to identify noteworthy practices, particularly with regard to high quality outcomes assessment and notable diversity practices. The [PAB website](#) disseminates this information, serving as a resource of innovations and effective educational approaches to accredited programs and the public. The site is updated twice annually. Recently, the following programs were recognized: 1) East Carolina University for student engagement in the profession (criterion 2C); 2) Texas A & M University for student learning outcomes assessment (criterion 1D) and professional involvement and community outreach (criterion 3F); 3) Virginia Commonwealth University for student diversity (criterion 2B); and, 4) University of New Mexico for student diversity (criterion 2B).

E. CHEA Recognition

PAB is one of roughly 50 specialized accreditors recognized by [CHEA](#). Just as PAB has standards for accreditation which change periodically and with which programs are expected to maintain compliance, CHEA has [recognition standards](#) for the accrediting agencies it recognizes. PAB's recognition is through December 31, 2023. PAB will submit its Self-Study Report to CHEA in December 2022.

F. Substantive Changes and PAB Annual Report Data

Accredited programs are required to report substantive changes to PAB. A substantive change is any organizational and/or programmatic change that may affect the Program's ability to comply with one or more of the pre-conditions to accreditation, and/or any of the PAB accreditation standards and criteria. For a list of substantive changes, visit the [PAB website](#). While all reported substantive changes are confidential, we are providing a brief overview of the reported changes in the 2021 Annual Report.

Twenty-four programs reported a substantive change in their 2021 Annual Report. Of the substantive changes reported: Twenty-one percent reported a decrease of 20% or more in student enrollment; thirty-three percent reported an increase of 20% or more in student enrollment. Seventeen percent reported a decrease of 20% or more in the number of teaching faculty.

A concerning trend among several programs was a change in administrative structure, such that the departmental status of planning was demoted to program status and moved to another college and/or department, coupled with non-replacement or transfer of planning faculty lines to other colleges. PAB encourages them to contact the ACSP leadership and/or ACSP Committee on the Academy to explore more ways of support by ACSP.

In the 2021 Annual Report, programs were asked the following question: *The pandemic has had a significant impact on academic institutions. What is the current status at your university/institution?* Programs were allowed to select multiple items.

	Number	Percent
Hiring Freezes Implemented	14	17%
Layoffs or furloughs of faculty and/or staff have occurred or are under consideration	13	16%
Budget reductions have occurred	39	48%
Budget reductions (initial or additional) are under consideration for future implementation	23	28%
Elimination of some programs/majors has occurred	7	9%
Elimination of some programs/majors is under consideration for future implementation	6	7%
Not Applicable	25	31%
Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • positive: furloughs and hiring freezes have been lifted; new faculty hires; some programmatic funding has been restored but to lower than pre-pandemic levels • negative: with declining enrollments the campus is devoting resources to enrollment management; funding model is based on 2019 enrollments but 2021 enrollment increased 	8	10%

OPERATIONAL DATA

Financial Summary

Redacted

PROGRAMS IN THE CANDIDACY PIPELINE

Redacted

PAB BOARD MEMBERS – TERMS AND APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

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

Edward Goetz, Ph.D. (1) – Vice Chair
 Professor
 Urban and Regional Planning Program
 University of Minnesota
 Minneapolis, MN 55455
 ACSP Planning Educator appointee 2016 – 2022

Byron A. Nicholas, PP, AICP
 Supervising Transportation Planner
 Hudson County

Office of the County Engineer
 830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 6B
 New Jersey, NJ 07306
 AICP Young Planner appointee 2021 – 2024

David Salazar, FAICP (2)
 Founder, Executive Director
 Long Beach Community Design
 Long Beach, California 90808
 AICP Planning Practitioner appointee 2019 – 2022

Lois M. Takahashi, Ph.D.

Professor
Department of Urban Planning and Spatial
Analysis
Sol Price School of Public Policy
University of Southern California
1800 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
ACSP Planning Educator appointee 2021 – 2024

Dawn G. Terkla, Ph.D. (3)

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 2017-2023

Weiping Wu, Ph.D.

Professor and Director
Urban Planning Program
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027
ACSP Planning Educator Appointee 2020-2023

- (1) Goetz's 2nd term expires 11/30/22; he will need to be replaced
- (2) Salazar's 1st term expires 11/30/22; he will need to be replaced
- (3) Terkla's 1st term expires 11/30/22; she is eligible for reappointment.