The current Associate Dean, Strategic Initiatives portfolio is centred around new academic and life-long learning programming. In 2020-21, new programs in development include:

### New Initiatives in Future Cities

The Faculty is in the process of hiring a new tenure-track position in Future Cities, and has successfully recruited a part-time lecturer in Future Studies to help support academic programming in the Future Cities space. Specifically, we will embark on:

#### Undergraduate Diploma, Future Cities

A new undergraduate credential has been approved by the Environment Administrative Committee, and will proceed through the normal approval channels in 2021 for inclusion in the 2022-23 Undergraduate Calendar. This diploma includes the creation of three new ENVS courses on Futures Thinking, Future Cities and a Future Cities Projects course. The balance of courses will come from existing course offerings, with options from most faculties.

#### Masters Degree, Future Cities

An online MES in Future Cities is in development. This course-based degree will involve the development of nine new graduate level courses, including core courses focused on Foundations for the program, Sustainable Cities, Tools for Futures Thinking, and Sustainable Cities, and restricted electives from Data Analytics, Just Cities, Urban Transitions and the Future of Work. The program will include an in-person block element (Foundations) and a choice of a Capstone Project or, when possible, an International Field School to apply skills gained throughout the program. It is envisioned that the MES in Future Cities can be completed in either one or two years.

### Lifelong Learning

In Fall 2020, the University of Waterloo created WatSPEED to contribute to our Lifelong Learning opportunities. WatSPEED will offer non-degree courses to professional audiences using a cost and revenue sharing business models. The Faculty of Environment has not yet entered into any agreements with WatSPEED, though two separate initiatives are in the early discussion phases.

### Online Learning

As of May 2021, the Centre for Extended Learning (CEL) has transitioned to a central intake for online development. Faculty who wish to submit courses for CEL development must now work
with the Dean’s Office. The intake window for the following year (September-September) will be in May of every year, and new development needs to start one full year before the planned first offer of the course. Remote offerings (without CEL support) are unaffected by this timeline.

10 May 2021
Johanna Wandel
Associate Dean, Strategic Initiatives