SCHOOL OF PLANNING REPORT TO FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

PERIOD 2019 – 2020

People

Once again, this past year, our School staff and faculty complement delivered outstanding performance to our many stakeholder groups. The School’s faculty continues to support the Faculty of Environment and institution in many ways, including serving in administrative positions: Jeff Casello as Associate Provost Graduate Studies, Michael Drescher is the Director of the Heritage Resources Center, and Dawn Parker as director of WICI. Our congratulations to Jennifer Dean who earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor – a recognition of her excellence in research and teaching.

For the past year Ann Joyner was appointed Planner-in-Residence – teaching a core 4th year course as well as contributing to a number of other classes. Ann is a Strategic Planning Advisor for Dillon Consulting in the Toronto office. Co-Chair of the Urban Land Institute (ULI)/Women’s Leadership Initiative (WLI) and member of the Management Committee for ULI Toronto. She is a Registered Professional Planner and a Champion of the Urban Land Institute’s Women’s Leadership Initiative. She has a Master’s degree in Planning and a B.Sc.

The School wishes to acknowledge the teaching contributions of the following individuals from the professional ranks: Denise Baker Plan 471, Wayne Caston Plan474 and part way through the term Paul Ciardulli: Sean Hertel Plan/Cive 484, Marcus Létourneau Plan 414/REC 425 Nancy Smith Plan 471, Jeff Solly Plan 483, Dana Anderson Plan 721, Bob Lehman Plan 721, Nancy Adler Plan 721. Evan Truong and Martina Braunstein supported the delivery of the design studio component for Plan 210.

The School is such a success year after year because of the exceptional efforts of our dedicated staff led by Sheree Solomon Academic Services Manager. Alison Frayne moved on to an exciting career opportunity outside the university and we were pleased to welcome Agata Jagielska in the Graduate Administrator role. Tiffany Chen, carries on in the Administrative Coordinator role; Jessica Martinson Debrouwer, Undergraduate Advisor and Program Administrator and Shelley Knischewsky, Event and External Relations Coordinator round out the team. Each delivers high quality service in their respective areas of responsibility and works collectively to make sure that we never seem to miss a beat! It is a great team to work with and we are fortunate to share an accomplished year of performance with them.

Programs

Graduate Studies

Joe Qian continues in the role of Associate Director Graduate Studies for the School. In 2019 our graduate student program count stood at 45 Doctoral and over 100 Masters students. The School admitted 8 PhD candidates, 20 into the MA and MES programs, 3 into the MPlan and 3 into the GDip program.

Our AGP (Association of Graduate Planners) has been very busy this past year with a number of important initiatives. The AGP has worked hard run a very successful seminar series. They continue to be a key part of the School community alongside their undergraduate counterparts in the PSA.

Undergraduate Studies
In 2019-2020, the School admitted our 9th co-op only cohort of 152 students into first year. Our program count during the Fall 2019 term was 580 students! During spring and fall convocations, a combined total of 104 students graduated, including many with Dean’s Honours List distinction. Our undergraduate students also were recognized with many awards throughout the past year.

This past year we also continued to benefit from outside support for our course delivery from a number of professional groups. UWPAT (University of Waterloo Planning Alumni of Toronto) and The Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation (TOARC) – all help to deliver important courses in our core program.

Our international dimension this year featured our Annual Oxford Brookes University field course to the UK (led by Mark Seasons)

The Planning Student Association contributes significantly to the community spirit in the School. Their extensive list of events from term to term includes things like games nights and professional outreach events. This past year they were amazing at supporting the School with events such as “World Town Planning Day” – working alongside staff and faculty.

Michael Drescher continues in the role of Undergraduate Officer and Jessica Martinson remains central as the Undergraduate Advisor and Program Administrator.

**Ongoing Activities**

**Research and Outreach**

Faculty in the School continues to be successful in ongoing research activities including the securing of new funding from various sources. The scholarly output by our faculty complement last year was over 120 units of output including book chapters, peer reviewed articles, reports, conference papers and presentations. Throughout the year, our Faculty members are active organizers and participants in a wide range of events related to their scholarship. While this is an important part of academic life, it is particularly important to a professional planning school with stated aims to integrate our scholarly activity with the broader communities with whom we interact.

**Special Events**

A distinguishing feature of the School of Planning is our vibrant and vital connection with the practice world of professional planning. Shelley Knischewsky, through her role as Events Coordinator, is an essential contributor to the success of that connection. The major events are listed below but there are also many throughout the year; from supporting visiting reviewers in a project class to day long efforts with students like World Town Planning Day; Shelley, working with the help of the entire administrative team, keeps us on track and delivering quality events!

**50th Anniversary Celebration**

October 8th, 2019 we hosted an amazing 50th event to celebrate the School’s important milestone. Fed Hall was our gathering spot and over 250 guests, friends, former faculty, staff and alumni enjoyed a wonderful evening of sharing memories and reflections on the School or “SURP” as it is still fondly thought of by many (School of Urban and Regional Planning). Our team of dedicated staff and faculty went over and above in organizing this event. Alumni included three guests from that first graduating
class and the “through the decade” panel capped off the evening. A report on the School’s first 50 years will be submitted in the near future.

Pragma Council
Two Pragma conference meetings were held this past year and Students and Faculty from the School were involved in many aspects of both. The Spring event addressed the Missing Middle housing challenges while our Fall event featured a first ever “mobile” Pragma event as we toured stops along the ION route to explore transit oriented development in the region.

Toronto Alumni Dinner
The 29th Annual Toronto Alumni Dinner was held at the Fairmount Royal York Hotel and was attended by approximately 1000 guests. Kadie Ward gave a great presentation on the intimate city (economic development related) and attendance from the School and its supporters was strong.

Induction Ceremony
First-year undergraduates and graduate students again participated in the annual Induction Ceremony held in the Fall. This past year, Bruce Curtis, an executive member with Ontario Professional Planners Institute council offered an inspiring message to the over 200 guests in attendance. Markus Moos provided a keynote research address connecting issues with planning research and practice. Our industry partners MHBC generously provided a donation to Habitat for Humanity in the name of the incoming class.

Graduation Ceremony and Lunch
Before spring convocation, the School hosted a luncheon and ceremony where we celebrated the accomplishments of our undergraduate and graduate students. Class representatives Katherine Chan and Mark Jull spoke about their time at UW and many students in the group proudly received school rings. Alumni Kent Taylor, head of real estate for IBM Canada provided an inspirational address for the students and guests. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with students and their supporters one last time.

Submitted by Clarence Woudsma, **Outgoing** Director, School of Planning