SCHOOL OF PLANNING REPORT TO FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

PERIOD 2017 – 2018

People

This past year, our School staff and faculty complement delivered outstanding performance to our many stakeholder groups. Our faculty complement increased by two as we welcomed Martine August in our Community and Cultural Heritage position, and Jeremy Pittman in our Environmental Planning, Policy, and Design position. 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 Clarence Woudsma is Director of the CHEC (Community, Health, Environment, and Communications) Initiative.

For the past year Lee Anne Doyle, was appointed Planner-in-Residence – teaching a core 4th year course as well as contributing to a number of other classes and our planning community. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Environmental Studies (Honours Urban & Regional Planning) University of Waterloo; a Bachelor of Education Degree (Specialist Geography) from the University of Windsor and a Master of Public Administration Degree from Western University.

Professionally, she has held various leadership positions in planning, building, by-law enforcement and municipal administration in both upper and lower tier municipalities in southwestern Ontario. Throughout her municipal career, she has worked on many highly visible community policy initiatives that have had positive impacts on the community.

Lee Anne received the Ontario Professional Planners Institute Award in 2006 for her outstanding leadership contributions to the Institute and the planning profession. She is the Recipient of the ATHENA International Leadership Award presented by the Windsor –Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce for her professional excellence, service to the community, and assistance to women in realizing their full leadership potential.

The School wishes to acknowledge the teaching contributions of the following individuals from the professional ranks: Wayne Caston, Sean Hertel, Bob Lehman, Dana Anderson, Nancy Smith, Denise Baker, Marcus Letourneau, Jeff Solly and Olga Semenovych. Evan Truong and Martina Braunstein supported the delivery of the design studio component for PLAN 210. The following PhD students were appointed to teach courses to support their career development: Nina Pulver, Nick Revington, Xing Su, and Katherine Laycock.

The School is such a success year after year because of the exceptional efforts of our dedicated staff. We had a fantastic retirement event for Linda Youngblut and said goodbye to Taylor Ertel, who moved on to another opportunity on campus. Sheree Solomon, Kelly Heald-Oliver, and Shelley Knischewsky were subsequently joined this past year by Jessica DeBrouwer Undergraduate Advisor, and Tiffany Chen, Administrative Coordinator. 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’re fortunate to share an accomplished year of performance with them.
**Programs**

Dr. Markus Moos continues as Graduate Officer for the SOP while Kelly Heald-Oliver continues in the role of Graduate Studies Administrator. In 2017 – 2018 the School admitted 6 PhD candidates, 24 into the MA and MES programs, 16 into the MPlan and 2 into the G Dip program.

Notable awards garnered by our students include:

- Doctoral Thesis Completion Award
- George Mulamootil Graduate Scholarship
- GRADtalks Award
- James & Elise Devitt Graduate Scholarship
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship
- Ontario Trillium Scholarship
- Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Studies – Ashley Rudkevitch and Jeffrey Henry
- Pragma Council Graduate Student Award – Spring 2017 Zoe Milligan
- Pragma Council Graduate Student Award - Fall 2017 Katherine Laycock
- Provost Doctoral Entrance Award for Women
- SSHRC J. Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship-Doctoral
- SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master’s
- SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship
- University of Waterloo International Experience Award
- UW Provost Graduate Scholarship

Our AGP (Association of Graduate Planners) has been very busy this past year with a number of important initiatives. They continue to run a very successful brown bag lunch program featuring many engaging speakers over the course of 12 events.

**Undergraduate Studies**

In 2017-18, the School admitted our seventh and largest ever co-op only cohort of 157 students into first year, including six internal transfer students. Our program count during the Fall 2017 term was 566 students! During spring and fall convocations, a combined total of 82 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 enjoy outside support for our course delivery from a number of professional groups. UWPAT (University of Waterloo Planning Alumni of Toronto), the Building Industry and Land Development Association BILD Ontario, 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 Robert Shipley) as well as a number of self-directed student terms abroad.

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, pancake breakfasts, talent nights and professional outreach events. They also volunteer at many school functions and support events such as “World Town Planning Day” – working alongside staff and faculty.
Michael Drescher continues in the role of Undergraduate Officer and Jessica Debrouwer 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 100 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 keeps us on track and delivering quality events!

**Pragma Council**
Two Pragma conference meetings were held this past year. The fall event “Mayhem in the Markets: Caring about Sharing in the 21st century City” focused on the timely issue of the sharing economy and its implications for our communities. The Spring event “Have you met our new neighbours?” Planning in the age of hyper-diversity featured a background report prepared by Jennifer Dean and the roster of guest speakers was an impressive mixture of industry professionals. Students and Faculty from the School were involved in many aspects of the event.

**Toronto Alumni Dinner**
The 27th Annual Toronto Alumni Dinner was held at the Fairmount Royal York Hotel and was attended by approximately 1000 guests. Anthony Townsend, academic and author was the guest speaker and offered an intriguing perspective on the future of smart cities.

**Induction Ceremony**
First-year undergraduates and graduate students again participated in the annual Induction Ceremony held in the Fall. This past year, Bruce Curtis, Executive council member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute offered an inspiring message to the over 200 guests in attendance. Leia Minaker provided a keynote research address connecting issues with planning research and practice and Clarence Woudsma presented the donation to Habitat for Humanity on behalf of the 2017 Inductees.

**Graduation Ceremony and Lunch Luncheon & Ceremony**
Before spring convocation, the School hosted a luncheon and ceremony where we celebrated the accomplishments of our undergraduate and graduate students. Class representatives Vikram Hardatt, Beth Davies and alumnus Aynsley Anderson spoke about their time at UW and school rings were proudly received by many students in the group. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with students and their supporters one last time.

Submitted by Clarence Woudsma, Director, School of Planning