Message from the Director

It is a privilege to report on the activities of such an active and successful department. From teaching to research and service, members of the School have contributed to and attained substantial achievements. On the research front, School members continue to be highly productive in scholarly research as well as more applied work with community groups, governments, and the private sector. On teaching, the School has delivered courses and supervision to close to 600 undergraduate students and 160 graduate students within our own unit and more across the University and broader academic community.

On service, the School has taken important steps to develop a value statement on anti-racism, equity, diversity, and inclusion that acts as a principled guide for the activities of the School and its members. The statement was produced in a collaborative effort, and our students played a leading role and integral part in its formulation over the past year and a half. We are close to wrapping up an undergraduate curriculum review which also emphasizes inclusion of Indigenous issues, anti-racism, and equity, diversity and inclusion in the core/required curriculum. Similar steps will be taken for the graduate program in the fall.

I would be remiss not to note just how strongly the continuing impacts of the pandemic and other global events remain felt across the School and its members both in direct and indirect ways. I highly commend faculty and staff colleagues and our students for continuing to demonstrate tremendous endurance and capacity to adapt during highly challenging circumstances. As always, we must continue to work together as a team and remind ourselves that success during difficult times sometimes just means ‘making it through’. I sincerely thank everyone for their commitment to the School and supporting each other as colleagues during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Markus Moos, PhD MCIP RPP
Director
School of Planning
ANNUAL SUMMARY

People

- 5 staff members and 21 faculty (3 of these are joint-appointments with other departments/programs and 1 is serving in a fulltime administrative position)
- About 600 undergraduate students and 160 graduate students
- Current administrative positions held by faculty:
  - Markus Moos, Director
  - Jennifer Dean, Associate Director Undergraduate
  - Joe Qian, Associate Director Graduate
- Joe Qian will continue to serve in the role of Associate Director Graduate until July 1, 2022. Janice Barry will take on the role at that time
- The School congratulates Janice Barry for having been selected as this year’s winner of the Faculty Service Award for her important leadership roles within the School, Faculty, University and planning profession related to equity, diversity, inclusion and Indigenous relations and pedagogy
- The School congratulates faculty colleagues who earned tenure/promotion: Martine August, Brian Doucet, Leia Minaker, Jeremy Pittman
- The School congratulates Markus Moos for promotion to full professor
- The School welcomes 3 new faculty: Marta Berbes (Future Cities program), Katherine Perrott, Su-Ying Tan (jointly appointed with GEM)
- The School welcomes 3 new staff members hired to fill vacant positions: Tracey Beirness (Graduate Program Administrator and Scholarship Coordinator), Angie Hildebrand (Event and External Relations Coordinator), Brandon Yeung (Administrative Coordinator)
- We thank all our exceptional staff for their continued hard work and outstanding contributions to the School. School staff deliver high quality service, and work collectively to ensure smooth School operations.
- The School’s faculty continues to support the broader University community in serving in administrative positions:
  - Jeff Casello, Associate Vice President Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs
  - Michael Drescher, Director, Heritage Resources Center
  - Leia Minaker, Director, Survey Research Center
- For the past year Jay Pitter was appointed Planner-in-Residence – teaching a core 4th year course as well as contributing to the School in a number of other ways.
  - Jay Pitter, MES, is an award-winning placemaker whose practice mitigates growing divides in cities across North America. She spearheads institutional city-building projects
specializing in public space design and policy, forgotten densities, mobility equity, 
gender-responsive design, inclusive public engagement and healing fraught sites.

- The School wishes to acknowledge the sessional teaching contributions of the following individuals:
  - Fall 2021 – Dana Anderson (PLAN 721), Sean Hertel (PLAN 721), Bob Lehman (PLAN 721), James Parkin (PLAN 417)
  - Winter 2022 – Denise Baker (PLAN 471), Sheila Boudreau (PLAN 110), Hadi El-Shayeb (PLAN 211), Sean Hertel (PLAN 703), Oz Kemal (PLAN 483), Neluka Leanage (PLAN 706), Kourosh Mahvash (PLAN 409), Sean Nix (PLAN 203), Nancy Smith (PLAN 471)
  - Spring 2022 – Raphael Ayambire (PLAN 350), Sean Hertel (PLAN 484), Marcus Letourneau (PLAN 414)

- We sincerely thank student members of the Association of Graduate Planners (AGP) and the Planning Student Association (PSA), the planning student associations at the graduate and undergraduate levels respectively. Despite challenging circumstances, they continued to offer important student initiatives and programing, delivered virtually and in-person. The AGP and PSA are a key part of the School community and contribute to the life of the School and student well-being and success in many ways.

- Finally, the School acknowledges its co-op students hired during the past year as research assistants, on-line learning assistants, and community outreach coordinators. The co-op students have contributed to successful School operations in important ways.

**Programs**

**Graduate Studies**

- 2021 new admits: 36
  - PhD: 6
  - MA/MES: 18
  - MPLAN: 10
  - GDIP: 2
- 2021 (Fall) total graduate student count: 156
  - PhD: 44
  - MA/MES: 73
  - MPLAN: 30
  - GDIP: 9

**Undergraduate Studies**

- 2021 new first year admits: 145
- 2021 (Fall) total undergraduate student count: 598
- Graduating Students
  - Spring 2021: 91
  - Fall 2021: 6
  - Spring 2022: ~110 (final count not available until May 19th when grades become official)
On-Going Activities

Research
- Faculty members in the School continue to be successful in ongoing research activities including the securing of new funding from various sources.
- Members publish peer-reviewed work in major international outlets and in leading journals in planning and adjacent fields. Faculty also have an impact through practice work and research conducted directly with local communities and organizations.
- The scholarly work by our faculty last year included a larger volume of output including books, book chapters, peer reviewed articles, reports, designs, software, invited keynote presentations, conference papers and posters and other 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 in general, it is particularly important to a professional planning school with stated aims to integrate our scholarly activity with a diversity of broader community interests.

Events
- One distinguishing feature of the School of Planning is our vibrant and vital connection with the practice world of professional planning; and special events are an essential contributor to the success of that connection. Events included:
  - School Graduation Celebration – May 26, 2021
  - School Undergraduate Welcome Event – September 10, 2021
  - School Virtual Meet and Greet with New Graduate Students – September 10, 2021
  - Induction Ceremony – Oct 7, 2021
  - Pragma Council Conference – Oct 28, 2021
  - Speaker event: The PhD Student Journey with Professor Julian Agyeman – October 27, 2021
  - Speaker event: At the nexus of urban design and social equity with Jay Pitter – Nov 8, 2021
  - Speaker event: Getting on the syllabus: Integrating equity, diversity, inclusion and justice into course design and delivery with Professor Julian Agyeman – Nov 17, 2021
  - School Senior Orientation Social Event – March 23, 2022

Other
- The School celebrated many student successes, including
  - OPPI 2021 Student Scholarship Winners – David Pau (Undergraduate) and Lindsey Soon (Graduate)
  - EYE Competition Winner – Matthew Van Bakel (3B Planning)
• Developing a **Value Statement for the School**: The statement was developed by a committee of students and faculty members and included School-wide consultation. Substantial input and engagement through on-going conversations, a student survey, committee participation, and faculty/staff engagement have been highly valuable in bringing to light key issues that the statement needs to address and how the School can move from values to action.

• As part of meeting EDIJ objectives, the School revisited opportunities and constraints for the Planner-in-Residence and sessional positions, formed a broader committee for graduate program admissions, participated in cluster hiring committees, and undertook new relationship building initiatives including with community organizations and First Nations.

• The School is wrapping up an undergraduate program curriculum review/redesign, including alignment with evolving professional competencies and new required components on Indigenous issues and equity, diversity and inclusion objectives in the core. In the fall, the School hopes to start a similar review for our MA/MES programs.

• The School added a research report option to its MA/MES programs (formerly only a thesis option existed)

• The School wrapped up a cyclical required program review that had been delayed, and is happy to report a positive outcome with constructive recommendations for continuous improvement.

• The School is happy to report growing connections with the US-based Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, with two faculty now on their annual conference review board (**Janice Barry**, **Luna Khirfan**), and a graduate student as PhD rep on their governing board (**Kayleigh Swanson**).

• This past year we also continued to benefit from outside support for our course delivery from a number of professional groups. For instance, the UWPAT (University of Waterloo Planning Alumni of Toronto) and The Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation (TOARC) helped to deliver courses in our program.

Prepared and submitted by Markus Moos, May 2022, with special thanks to Tracey Beirness, Tiffany Chen, Jennifer Dean, Angie Hildebrand, Joe Qian, Sheree Solomon and Brandon Yeung for assistance in compiling information for this report.