



College of Arts and Sciences

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MEMO

TO: Kate Miller
Provost/VPAA

FROM: Paula M. Lutz *Paula M. Lutz*
Dean, Arts and Sciences

RE: Program Review for Geography Masters in Planning—Dean's recommendation

The Geography Department's Masters in Planning has produced five graduates in five years. It is 'recognized' but not accredited by the American Planning Association. Accreditation would require three FTE faculty, ten students, and separation from the Department of Geography. At present, it is run by a single faculty member, Dr. William Gribb, who currently serves as DH for Geography. There are no plans to give additional resources to this Masters in Planning program.

The students in the program take the AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners) exam upon completing their degrees, and they do well (success rate of these five students was 100%). All have found jobs in planning or related fields and many remain in Wyoming. However, it is not viable as an independent program.

The Dean sees two course of action. One is to discontinue the program. The other is to make this into a track within our strong Masters in Public Administration program (within Political Science). Many MPA's have such a track. The Dean's recommendation is the second option—place this program as a track within the MPA.

Institutional Program Review–Planning Program

1. Title of Program: Masters in Planning
2. Undergraduate/Graduate Program: Graduate Program/Undergraduate Minor
3. Department and College: Arts and Sciences
4. Department Head: Dr. William J. Gribb
5. Program Productivity:
 - a. Number of Graduates over 5–year Period: 5
 - b. Enrollment in Major over 5–year Period: Minor–1
6. Program Quality:
 - a. Program Accreditation:
 - i. Program Currently Accredited: Yes–Recognized No–Accredited
 1. Accrediting Body/Organization: American Planning Association
 2. Date of Most Recent Accreditation:
 3. Next Reaccreditation:
 4. List Recommendations from Last Accreditation:
 - ii. Program Seeking Accreditation: Yes
 1. Accrediting Body/Organization: American Planning Association–Planning Accreditation Board
 2. Timeline for Seeking Accreditation: Accreditation in Five years
Need: 1. Three FTE in Planning, Three Faculty with A.I.C.P., Two Potential
 2. Separate program from Geography
 3. At least 10 students (FTE) in program
 - iii. All Other Programs:
 1. Date Most Recent Institutional Program Review (IPR): Geography Department Review–Nov. 2015–Jan. 2016
 2. List of Recommendations from Last IPR and Progress to Date:

None

b.Credentials of Faculty:

i.List of Faculty:

Professor William Gribb Geography (100%)

Associate Professor Yi-Ling Chen Geography (25%) Global and Area Studies (75%)

APRS-Dr. Jeffrey Hamerlinck Geography (25%) WyGIScC (75%)

ii.Faculty Gender and Ethnicity:

Male-2

Female-1

Ethnicity

Anglo-2

Asian-1

iii.Grants Awarded, Tenure and Tenure-Track Faculty FTE:

Grants that relate specifically to planning:

2011 Lewis and Clark Grant, NPS, \$129,000

2011 Beaver Study-Grand Teton NP, NPS, \$5,000

2012 3rd St. Project, City of Laramie, \$500

2013 Bicycle Project, City of Laramie, \$300

2013 Environmental Inventory and Plan, Laramie County, \$1,900

2013 Environmental Inventory and Plan Monolith Ranch, City of Laramie, \$600

2013 Food Security-Range of Grocery Goods, Wind River Reservation, \$500

2014 Beaver Study, Grand Teton NP, NPS, \$5,000

2015 Agricultural Plan, Wind River Reservation, WRIR, \$119,000

2015 Beaver Study, Grand Teton NP, NPS, \$5,000

2015 Vedauwoo Climbing Carrying Capacity Study, Med Bow NF, \$30,000

2015 Medicine Bow N.F. Hunting Outfitter Carrying Capacity Study, Med. Bow NF, \$30,000

c.Program Reputation:

i.Program Rank, Rank and Ranking Body/Organization:

ii. Brief Description of Any Other Indicators:

There are two indicators of the quality of our program, employment/academic success rate of our graduates and success rate in taking the American Institute of Certified Planners (A.I.C.P.) exam. Currently, all of our graduates over the past five years have jobs in

planning or a related field, refer to page 5 of this document. The success rate on the AICP exam is an indication of two factors, the quality of our students and the quality of the program. In the past five years we have had four of our graduates' take the exam and all five have passed. This is a continuation of our success in that we have a 100% pass rate on the exam, with over 30 students taking the exam in the last 20 years. The national average of passing the exam is 64%.

d. Curriculum of Major:

i. List of Courses

Required:

Geog4310/5310 Foundations in Sustainable Planning

Geog43225/53225 Legal Aspects of Planning

Geog4330/53350 Land Use Planning

POLS5510 Policy Analysis

Select Three Courses:

Geog4200/5200 GIS I

Geog4210/5210 GIS II

Geog4220/5220 Geocomputation and Modeling

Geog41111/51111 Remote Sensing of the Environment

Geog41113/51113 Advanced Remote Sensing of the Environment

Geog5040 Environmental Data Management

Stat5000 Statistics for Researchers

Stat5070 Statistics for Social Scientists

Any other methods courses the student and advisor believe is relevant to the student's program of study.

Five Courses:

Selected from the interest of the student in:

Rural and Small Town Planning

Land Use Planning

Environmental Planning

e. Distance Delivery of Program:

i. Program Offered On-Line – No online courses

f. Quality of Assessment Plan:

i. Brief Description of Program Assessment Plan:

The Planning program's assessment plan is in its first year of completion and will be submitted June, 2016. The assessment has four parts: 1. focused assessments on three components– concepts, skills, values/ethics; thesis

assessment; analysis of enrollments, degrees and programs; and, exit questionnaire.

g.Strategic Plan:

i.Brief Description of Plans for Program in College/Department Strategic Plan:

The Geography Department is in transition. The recent departmental review (Jan., 2016) identified several issues that have to be addressed within the department and the Planning program was one of the issues. As stated in the report, the Geography department needs to continue its emphasis on state-wide engagement and one avenue is through the Planning program. In addition, the review highlighted the fact that the Geography department is linked to several other units on campus (ENR, PiE, WyGISC, WyCEHG, American Studies, Global and Area Studies, and American Indian Studies) and that these linkages should be continued and strengthened. The Planning program is engaged in several studies with local communities (p.2) to enhance the civic engagement aspects of the Geography department and is a co-PI with faculty from WyGISC, ENR, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and NSF-EPSCoR WyCEHG.

h.Other:

7.Mission Centrality: Does the Program Advance the Mission of UW:

a.Describe How the Program Supports UW Mission, Vision and Strategic Goals:

The University of Wyoming mission states:

As Wyoming's only university, we are committed to outreach and service that extend our human talent and technological capacity to serve the people in our communities, our state, the nation, and the world. The primary vehicles for identifying the specific actions and resource allocations needed to accomplish this complex mission are the university's strategic plans, revised periodically.

The Planning program has followed a philosophy of action-learning, creating opportunities for students to become involved in planning projects. In this approach, students have the ability to select a project and vote to accomplish a service-oriented project that has been initiated by a local community, state-agency, or national organization. Since 2011, the planning courses have undertaken the following projects:

Laramie County Environmental Inventory for Sustainable Development
City of Laramie, Environmental Inventory and Development Options for the
Monolith Range

Laramie Main Street Alliance, Bicycle Rack Inventory and Bicycle Route
Analysis for Downtown Laramie

Wyoming Pathways, Wyoming Inventory and Plan for Bicycle Route Integration

Wind River Reservation, Analysis of Grocery Store and Food Market Range of Goods

City of Laramie, Laramie Multi-Family Housing Analysis

All projects have been requested by the agency and the students decide if they want to undertake the project and finish it within one semester.

b. Describe How the Program Contributes to Other Programs Across UW:
The Planning program has a focus on sustainability. In this regard it is part of the program of study for the minor in Sustainability offered in the Haub School for Environment and Natural Resources. In addition, the Planning program courses are part of the School of Energy Resources degree in Land Management. Finally, planning courses are recommended as part of the Masters in Public Administration. Correspondingly, the Planning students have a requirement to take a course in policy analysis offered in the Political Science department. Over the last five years, 26% (56/218) of the students taking planning courses have been outside of the Geography department. We have courses in Land Use Planning, Environmental Planning and Rural and Small Town Planning that attract students from other departments.

c. Placement Data of Graduates and Indicate If Graduates are Working in Field:

2011 Susan Adler, Planner, Albany County, WY

2011 Nadia Kaliszewski, Community Affairs, School of Energy Resources, UW

2012 Keith Wresinski, PhD student, U. of Louisville, KY

2012 Richard Vercoe, PhD student, U. of Georgia, GA

2013 Cody Jennings, Planner, Cherokee Nation, OK

2013 Nuntapon Nongharnpitak, Planner, Pathuri Thani Province, Thailand

2014 Upandra Bom, PhD student, Texas State U., TX

2014 Shannon Glendenning, Community Researcher, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, UW

2015 Jonathan Bowler, PhD student, Program in Ecology, UW

d. Describe the Uniqueness/Duplication of Program Across the BOR System:

The Planning program is the only planning program within the UW system. In fact, the Planning program with its emphasis in sustainability, land use,

environment and rural and small town planning is unique in the Rocky Mountain region. Five universities in the Rocky Mountain region offer a specific degree in planning, none in rural or land use planning: Community and Urban Planning (U. of Utah, U. of Nebraska–Lincoln, North Dakota State U.) and BioRegional Planning (Utah State U. and U. of Idaho). Another four universities offer a planning concentration within a Masters in Geography degree: U. of Montana, Montana State U., South Dakota State U., and U. of North Dakota.

e.Other:

8.Cost: Is the Program Financially Viable:

a.Ratio of Student Credit Hours per FTE:

AY2011–150

AY2012–75

AY2013–165

AY2014–99

AY2015–135

Ave.–124SCH

During the even academic years (2012, 2014) only two of the fundamental planning courses are taught because of a rotation with a course in American Indian Studies.

b.Direct Institutional Expenditures:

i.Per Student Credit Hour:

According to the OIR Report, 2015, for FY2014 for Geography is \$7,410.

ii.Per Total Degrees Awarded:

Five planning (MP) degrees awarded since 2011(p.2). According to the OIR Report, 2015 for FY2014 is \$40,939.

iii.Non–Personnel Expenditures per Total Academic FTE:

c.Course Enrollment:

Course enrollments specific to Planning courses:

AY2011–52

AY2012–28

AY2013–55

AY2014–33

AY2015-45

i.Number of Classes Falling Under University Minimum:

Since 2010, only one planning course Geog4390/5390-Rural and Small Town Planning (F. 2012) was under-enrolled.

ii.Lower-Division Courses Falling Under University Minimum:

Geog4390-Rural and Small Town Planning (F. 2012) had 2 UG and 3 GR students.

d.Other Institutional Cost Drivers:

i.Section Fill Rates:

Of the 15 Planning courses taught since 2011, the average fill rate is .73 with a low of .25 and a high of 1.15. Overall, the average fill rates for Planning range from Geog4330-Land Use Planning having the highest fill rate (.93), while Geog4390-Rural and Small Town Planning has the lowest fill rate (.59).

ii.Course Completion Rates:

Course completion rate is difficult to determine because students drop or do not complete courses for different reasons. A total of 218 students have completed Planning courses since 2011. Of this total 3 students did not attend class and did not drop the class, (1.4%), while 19 students (8.0%) dropped the class at different stages in the semester.

iii.Curricular Complexity:

iv.Faculty Course Load:

Dr. Gribb: 1x1, reduced course load, department chair

Dr. Hamerlinck: 1x1, 25% Geography

Dr. Yi-Ling: 1x1, 25% Geography

e.Research Expenditures per Tenured/Tenure-Track FTE:

Did not know how to calculate this value and did not find it in the OIR Report, 2015.

f.Compare Your Data to National Benchmarks (Delaware Data):

From the OIR report, Summer, 2015, the Geography department FY14 values for Total Instruction/Total Degrees Awarded was \$40,939. The Total Instruction/Student FTE was calculated at \$7,410.

9. Based on the Review, and Using the Options Provided in the Guidelines Document, Identify Your Recommendations to the Provost Office with Rational/Justification:

Academic Program Review: **Geography, Masters in Planning**

Section 8 – Cost

a) Ratio of student credit hours per FTE (AY 2014/15): **493.6**

b) Direct instructional expenditures (FY 2015): **\$1,122,097**

i) Per student FTE: **\$9,834**

ii) Per total degrees awarded: **\$62,339**

iii) Non-personnel expenditures / total academic FTE: **\$ 9,162**

c) Course enrollment (AY 2014/15)

i) Classes falling under university minimums: **11**

ii) Lower-division courses falling under university minimums: **0**

e) Research expenditure per tenure-track FTE (FY 2015): **\$29,599**