



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

The Graduate School

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August 27, 2008

To: Phyllis M. Wise, Provost and Executive Vice President
Douglas J. Wadden, Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
and Planning
Office of the Provost, Box 351237

From: Gerald J. Baldasty, Interim Vice Provost and Dean
James Soto Antony
Associate Dean for Academic Programs

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James Soto Antony". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

From: Review of the Department of Urban Design and Planning

At the meeting of January 10, 2008, the Graduate School Council met with Robert Plotnick, (Professor of Public Affairs and Social Work) Chair of the committee that reviewed the Master of Urban Planning (M.U.P) degree program offered by the Department of Urban Design and Planning, and regarding recommendations of the Interdisciplinary Urban Design and Planning Ph.D. review related to the Department. Frank Westerlund, then Acting Chair of the Department, and Daniel Friedman, Dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning also attended the meeting. The program review process included a charge meeting on January 10, 2007, between members of the review committee and administrators involved in the review. The review site visit held on February 27, 2007, included Robert Lee, Professor of Forest Resources, the second member of the review team.

The most recent prior review of the Department of Urban Design and Planning was completed in the 2001 academic year. The continuing status of the B.A. and M.U.P. degree programs was reaffirmed but the committee recommended that the department be reviewed in the 2005-2006 academic year to evaluate progress on issues identified in the review. The three major concerns identified included: 1) promotion, tenure and merit review procedures, 2) faculty mentoring, and 3) senior faculty leadership. The review was rescheduled to 2006-2007 on the request of Hilda Blanco, Professor and Chair of the Department.

At the January 10 Council meeting, Professor Plotnick outlined findings and recommendations of the Review Committee Report (submitted May 10, 2007). The committee found that the department had made significant progress in developing their strategic plan, promotion and tenure guidelines, faculty mentoring, and senior faculty leadership. The committee commended the department on its leadership and the commitment of faculty in addressing these issues. This change has led to improved morale and collegiality among faculty. Since the need for resources remains an issue, the committee encouraged the department to develop a detailed long-term strategy within their plan to address this issue. The department achieved modest progress on increasing the diversity of faculty and students in the M.U.P. program. Faculty have articulated an ambitious plan of action in the strategic plan aimed at increasing faculty and students of color. Student advising for undergraduate students remains a challenge with the need for permanent staffing. Advising for graduate students was considered to be at critical mass.

Dean Friedman reported that an Associate Dean for Academic Affairs position was created to centralize college-wide support for faculty mentoring and development. Urban Design and Planning is working with the new Associate Dean to develop guidelines for promotion and tenure, faculty mentoring and on diversity initiatives.

The Council noted the successful undergraduate major in Community, Environment and Planning (CEP) and commended the department for committing needed permanent faculty lines for sustainability of the program. The Council acknowledged the department's progress and responsiveness on the issues of concern the committee identified in the previous review and encouraged it to maintain focus on faculty and diversity development. The Council recommended continuing status for the Bachelor of Arts and Master of Urban Planning degree programs with the next review to be scheduled in the 2017-2018 academic year.

We concur with these comments and recommendations.

- c: Daniel S. Friedman, Dean, College of Architecture and Urban Planning
- Edward Taylor, Vice Provost and Dean, Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs
- Hilda J. Blanco, Professor and Chair, Department of Urban Design and Planning
- Urban Design and Planning Review Committee
- Jacob K. Faleschini, President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate
- Graduate School Council
- Augustine McCaffery, Senior Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School