

University of Illinois Urban & Regional Planning Alumni Strategy Council

I. BACKGROUND & STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The University of Illinois Department of Urban & Regional Planning is establishing a volunteer leadership group, the University of Illinois Urban & Regional Planning Alumni Strategy Council (hereafter “the Council”) aimed to strengthen the pipeline from prospective student to current student to program alumni working at all levels.

The Council will help the Department boost the diversity, quality, and number of students who enroll in the BAUSP and MUP programs. To this end, the Council will undertake activities that:

- reinforce and deepen the Department’s commitment to making communities more equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and just
- increase students’ connection and engagement with the breadth of work they can do after they graduate
- expand professional development opportunities including internships, jobs, and practice-oriented course engagement
- ensure the relevance and excellence of the Department’s curriculum
- strengthen the Department’s connections with program alumni, practitioners, and other leaders in urban planning and community development.

Among these activities, the Council’s members will attend and organize alumni events, attend student events, and advocate for alumni to support the Department as well-informed ambassadors.

Beyond the enrollment-related benefits of these activities, we hope for the Council to benefit the Department via an increase in alumni engagement and volunteerism. While we believe that more engaged alumni will be more inclined to support the Department financially, the Council is not primarily a vehicle for fundraising.

II. MEMBERSHIP, EXPECTATIONS, AND ACTIVITIES

The Council is composed of at least 12 members (University and volunteer personnel combined). At least nine alumni members will be selected by the Head of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. A Chair of the Council will be designated by the Head from among these alumni members. In addition, the Council will include the Head of the Department of Urban & Regional Planning, at least one additional faculty member (usually the Associate Head of the Department), and the College Advancement Officer tasked to support the Department of Urban & Regional Planning. Expectation for Council service is three (3) years. After the initial three-year period, membership on the Council may be renewed for additional periods.

Council members will be expected to:

- attend two Council meetings per year, as detailed in Part III

- engage in ongoing activities between meetings that will help reach the objectives listed in Part I
- actively engage with prospective students, current students, faculty, and staff, and alumni throughout their term
- adhere to and sign the University of Illinois confidentiality agreement
- inform the Chair and the Department Head that they wish to resign from the Council should they become unable to attend meetings and engage in ongoing activities.

Activities and priorities of the Council in furtherance of the primary objective listed in Part I will be determined annually. The Department Head and the Chair of the Council will be jointly responsible for tracking and reporting progress to the remaining Council members.

III. MEETINGS

The Council will meet twice per year by video conference. Meetings will provide opportunities to set priorities and actions, deliberate on recommendations from the Council's ongoing work, welcome new members, and hear reports on the Department.

The Chair of the Council and the Head of the Department will collaborate in preparing, organizing, and managing Council meetings and events. Other Council members are welcome to suggest agenda items, as are faculty members from the Department and representatives of student organizations. The Head of the Department will consult with Advancement Office representative where relevant. Meetings will be led by the Chair of the Council.