

**THE GRADUATE SCHOOL - UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
NEW PROGRAM REPORT FROM THE GRADUATE COUNCIL TO THE
FACULTY SENATE
CURRICULAR REPORT 2014-15-3A; 24 November 2014**

At Meeting No. 485 held on 24 November 2014, the Graduate Council approved the attached proposal that is now submitted to the Faculty Senate.

**SECTION I
BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

ABSTRACT

The Graduate Council approved a proposal from the College of the Environment and Life Sciences to create a *Graduate Certificate in Community Planning*. Planning is a multi-disciplinary profession that addresses problems and challenges at different geographical levels. Planners use their skills to find solutions to community problems and carry the community toward its desired long-term goals. Many community problems cross jurisdictional boundaries and, therefore, require regional planning solutions. Planning enables civic leaders, businesses, and citizens to play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives. Graduate courses in planning offered at URI serve undergraduate and graduate students in different departments in the College of the Environment and Life Sciences and the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the College of Engineering.

BACKGROUND

The URI Graduate Certificate in Community Planning provides students advanced instruction and training in community planning and development to address contemporary planning challenges at different geographical levels in the U.S. The proposed certificate focuses on the knowledge of the principles and practices of community planning and development, specifically in areas of land use and environmental planning as well as urban design. The graduate certificate offers the knowledge and technical skills for those students interested in a career in governmental planning agencies, private sector consulting and/or real estate development companies as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Those who already practice in the field and wish to enhance their skills and understanding of the community planning and development issues are also encouraged to consider the graduate certificate. The total number of credits required to complete the Certificate are 15-16 (5 courses).

**SECTION II
RECOMMENDATION**

The Graduate Council approved the proposal to create a *Graduate Certificate in Community Planning* at its Meeting No. 485 held on 24 November 2014, and forwards it to the Faculty Senate with a recommendation for approval.

A Proposal for a

A. PROGRAM INFORMATION

1. Name of institution

University of Rhode Island

2. Name of department, division, school or college

Department of Landscape Architecture, College of the Environment and Life Sciences

3. Title of proposed program and Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code

Graduate Certificate in Community Planning

CIP code = 04.03 "City/Urban, Community and Regional Planning"

4. Intended initiation date of program change. Include anticipated date for granting first degrees or certificates, if appropriate.

Initiation date: September 2015

First degree date: May 2016

5. Intended location of the program

URI Main Campus, College of the Environment and Life Sciences

6. Description of institutional review and approval process

Department

College

CAC/Graduate Council

Faculty Senate

President of the University

Approval Date

8/25/14

10/02/14

7. Summary description of proposed program (not to exceed 2 pages)

The URI Graduate Certificate in Community Planning provides students advanced instruction and training in community planning and development to address contemporary planning challenges at different geographical levels in the U.S. The proposed certificate focuses on the knowledge of the principles and practices of community planning and development, specifically in areas of land use and environmental planning as well as urban design. The graduate certificate offers the knowledge and technical skills for those students interested in a career in governmental planning agencies, private sector consulting and/or real estate development companies as

well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Those who already practice in the field and wish to enhance their skills and understanding of the community planning and development issues are also encouraged to consider the graduate certificate.

The URI Community Planning Certificate does not require any new classes or FTEs. It is based on a strong collection of existing faculty and classes offered at the University.

8. Signature of the President

David M. Dooley

9. Person to contact during the proposal review

Name: Farhad Atash
Address: Department of Landscape Architecture
Phone: 4-2982
Email: fatash@mail.uri.edu

10. Signed agreements for any cooperative arrangements made with other institutions/agencies or private companies in support of the program.

N/A

B. RATIONALE: There should be a demonstrable need for the program.

1. Explain and quantify the needs addressed by this program, and present evidence that the program fulfills these needs.

This new graduate certificate will be the first in Rhode Island and builds on URI's long-standing reputation in training professional community planners from the early 1960s until 2005. The intent of this certificate program is to encourage or improve professional knowledge of community planning and development issues in the U.S. Currently, no public or private university in Rhode Island is offering a graduate degree or certificate in community planning. The proposed graduate certificate will fill the void by training competent professionals and provide them with a firm grounding in land use and environmental planning as well as urban design.

With the support of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences (CELS), the Department of Landscape Architecture has undertaken two major initiatives to bring back Planning Profession to the University of Rhode Island. First, the Department of Landscape Architecture developed the new "Environmental Planning and Design" Track in the Master of Environmental Science and Management (MESM) Program. Second, the Department of Landscape Architecture has developed the proposal for the new "Graduate Certificate in Community Planning".

The students that will pursue the Graduate Certificate in Community Planning at URI will have the option to bridge into at least three related master's programs at URI: Master of Public Administration, Master of Environmental Science and Management, and Master of Marine Affairs.

In 2013, 84 degrees in planning from 74 U.S. universities were accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB). In New England Region, accredited Masters Degree in Planning is offered at Harvard University, MIT, Tufts University, University of Massachusetts, Amherst and University of Southern Maine. Graduate Planning Certificates are offered at Tufts University, University of Connecticut and University of Southern Maine.

The American Planning Association (APA)/ American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) 2014 Planners Salary Survey gives current and comprehensive information on the compensation of "planners" - that is, domestic APA members (Regular, New Professional, Life, Faculty) members employed or self-employed full-time and year-round as planners or in planning-related positions. It updates surveys conducted every other year since 2004 by APA and AICP.

The typical (median) planner is 44 years old and has been in the planning field for 15 years. Almost all (95%) planners indicated at least one area of specialization, the most common being community development/redevelopment (51%) and land-use or code enforcement (45%). Other common areas of specialization include transportation planning (30%), economic planning and development (25%), environmental and natural resources planning (24%), and urban design (21%). 71% of planners work in public agencies and 21% in private consulting firms. 62% of planners report their principal place of employment is located in a city, another 22% indicated a suburb, 11% a small town, and 4% a rural area. The typical full-time planner reported a 2014 annual salary of \$74,000; this is up 4.2% from the \$71,000 reported in 2012, which exceeds the 3.2% core rate of inflation (CPI - all urban consumers) during the period.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment of urban and regional planners is projected to grow 10 percent from 2012 to 2022, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Population growth, economic conditions, and environmental concerns will drive employment growth for planners in cities, suburbs, and other areas.

C. INSTITUTIONAL ROLE: The program should be clearly related to the published role and mission of the institution and be compatible with other programs and activities of the institution.

1. Explain how the program is consistent with the published role and mission of the institution and how it is related to the institution's academic planning.

Planning is a multi-disciplinary profession that addresses problems and challenges at different geographical levels. Planners use their skills to find solutions to community problems and carry the community toward its desired long-term goals. Many community problems cross jurisdictional boundaries and, therefore, require regional planning solutions. Planning enables civic leaders, businesses, and citizens to play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives. Graduate courses in planning

offered at URI serve undergraduate and graduate students in different departments in the College of the Environment and Life Sciences and the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the College of Engineering.

- D. INTERINSTITUTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS: The program should be consistent with all policies of the Board of Governors pertaining to the coordination and collaboration between public institutions of higher education. (Consult the Board of Governors' *Coordination Plan for Academic Programs in Rhode Island Public Institutions of Higher Education* [www.ribghe.org/publicreg.htm] for guidelines and restrictions regarding the types and levels of programs the institutions are allowed to offer.)**

Rhode Island College (RIC) and Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) don't offer graduate courses or curriculums in community planning at the present time. The proposed graduate certificate in Community Planning would offer the students attending RIC and CCRI the opportunity to receive the advanced instruction and training in community planning in Rhode Island.

- 1. Estimate the projected impact of program on other public higher education institutions in Rhode Island (e.g. loss of students or revenues), provide a rationale for the assumptions made in the projections, and indicate the manner in which the other public institutions were consulted in developing the projections.**

Neither RIC nor CCRI teach any graduate courses in community planning. The proposed certificate program will complement and strengthen higher education throughout the state of Rhode Island.

- 2. Using the format prescribed by RIOHE, describe provisions for transfer students (into or out of the program) at other Rhode Island public institutions of higher education. Describe any transfer agreements with independent institutions. The institution must also either submit a Joint Admissions Agreement transition plan or the reason(s) the new program is not transferable. (See *Procedure for Strengthening the Articulation/Transfer Component of the Review Process for New Programs* which can be found at www.ribghe.org/publicreg.htm.)**

N/A

- 3. Describe any cooperative arrangements with institutions offering similar programs. (Signed copies of any agreements pertaining to use of faculty, library, equipment, and facilities should be attached.)**

No cooperative arrangements are required for this certificate program.

- 4. If external affiliations are required, identify providing agencies. (Indicate the status of any arrangements made and append letters of agreement, if appropriate.)**

N/A

5. Indicate whether the program will be available to students under the New England Board of Higher Education's (NEBHE) Regional Student Program (RSP).

We are not requesting this certificate program to be included under the NEBHE RSP.

E. PROGRAM: The program should meet a recognized educational need and be delivered in an appropriate mode.

1. Prepare a typical curriculum display for one program cycle for each sub-major, specialty or option, including the following information:

- a. Name of courses, departments, and catalog numbers and brief descriptions for new courses, preferably as these will appear in the catalog. In keeping with each institution's timetable for completion of student outcomes assessment, each institution should provide an assessment plan detailing what a student should know and be able to do at of the program and how the skills and knowledge will be assessed. For example, if a department brings forth a new program proposal but that department is not slated to have its student outcomes assessment completed until 2008, the program could be approved but with the provision that the department return no later than 2008 and present to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee its student outcomes for that particular program.**

Through the stated goals and learning outcomes of this certificate program (see section L), graduates will receive advanced instruction and training in the skills and competencies required to address multifaceted problems and challenges in community planning and development across the country. Students will have the opportunity to use their newly acquired skills in different class projects and assignments.

Assessment rubrics for evaluation of this certificate program are provided in section L.1. of this proposal. Assessment of this program will take place annually and in accordance with the assessment planning and reporting schedule for certificates required by the University.

The Community Planning Certificate will be based on existing classes. No new courses are required for this certificate. A typical curriculum might look like:

Semester 1:

CPL 410. Fundamentals of Community Planning Practice (3 cr.)
CPL 485. Environmental Planning (3 cr.), or
CPL 539. Environmental Law (3 cr.)

Semester 2:

CPL 450. Urban Design (3 cr.), or
CPL/MAF 516. Seminar on the Urban Waterfront (3 cr.)
MAF 465. GIS Applications in Coastal & Marine Management (3 cr.)
PSC 524. Seminar in Public Policy Problems (3 cr.), or

CPL 538. Site Planning (3 cr.)

b. Required courses in area of specialization and options, if any.

Required Course:

CPL 410 (or 501). Fundamentals of Community Planning Practice (3 cr.)

6 Credits from the Following Core Courses:

CPL 434 (or 539). Introduction to Environmental Law (3 cr.)

CPL 450. Urban Design (3 cr.)

CPL 483. Land Development (3 cr.)

CPL 485. Environmental Planning (3cr.)

CPL/MAF 516. Seminar on the Urban Waterfront (3 cr.)

PSC 505. Public Program Evaluation (3 cr.)

6-7 Credits from the Following Elective Courses:

CPL 538. Site Planning (3 cr.)

CPL 549. Seminar in Ecological Planning (3 cr.)

LAR 444. Landscape Architecture Design Studio III: Sustainable Design (4 cr.)

LAR 445. Landscape Architecture Design Studio IV (4 cr.)

MAF 465. GIS Applications in Coastal and Marine Management (3 cr.)

MAF 475. Human Responses to Coastal Hazards and Disasters (3 cr.)

MAF 564. Port Operations and Policy [to be changed to Port Planning & Policy] (3 cr.)

PSC 524. Seminar in Public Policy Problems (3 cr.)

c. Course distribution requirements, if any, within program, and general education requirements.

N/A

d. Total number of free electives available after specialization and general education requirements are satisfied.

In addition to one required course and 6 credits of core courses selected from a specific list, 6-7 credits are to be chosen from a specific list of elective courses.

e. Total number of credits required for completion of program or for graduation. Present evidence that the program is of appropriate length as illustrated by conformity with appropriate accrediting agency standards, applicable industry standards, or other credible measure, and comparability of lengths with similar programs in the state or region.

Total Credits Required to Complete Certificate = 15-16 cr. (5 courses)

Credit/course requirements for comparable programs:

Tufts University, Community Environmental Studies Certificate, 4 courses
 University of Connecticut, Sustainable Environmental Planning & Management Certificate, 4 courses
 University of Southern Maine, Community Planning Certificate, 4 courses
 University of Utah, Urban Planning Certificate, 5 courses
 Kansas State University, Community Planning Certificate, 5 courses
 University of Central Florida, Urban & Regional Planning Certificate, 6 courses
 University of Texas, San Antonio, Urban & Regional Planning Certificate, 5 courses

f. Identify any courses that will be delivered or received by way of distance learning. (Refer to *www.ribghe.org/publicreg.htm* for the *Standards for Distance Learning in the Rhode Island System of Public Higher Education.*)

All classes will meet in person. None are delivered by distance learning at this time.

2. Describe certification/licensing requirements, if any, for program graduates and the degree to which completion of the required course work meets said requirements. Indicate the agencies and timetables for graduates to meet those requirements.

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) is the American Planning Association's professional institute, providing recognized leadership nationwide in the certification of professional planners. To become a certified planner, American Planning Association (APA) members must meet certain education and experience requirements and pass a written examination. Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements before applying to take the examination.

1. Be a current member of the American Planning Association (APA).
2. Be engaged in professional planning, either currently or in the past, as defined by AICP.
3. Have completed, at the time of application submission, one of the combinations of education and corresponding years of professional planning experience listed in the chart below.

Level of Education*	Total Number of Years of Professional Planning Experience Required
Graduate degree in Planning from a program accredited by the PAB**	2
Bachelor's degree in Planning from a program accredited by the PAB**	3
Graduate degree in Planning from a program <i>not</i> accredited by the PAB	3
Any other post-graduate, graduate, or undergraduate degree***	4
No college degree	8

* The education may be obtained before, during, or after the experience.

** **Accredited degrees** have been determined by the Planning Accreditation Board to meet standards approved by the American Institute of Certified Planners and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning or recognized by the Canadian Institute of Planners. AICP gives educational credit to applicants holding these degrees if the degree was received (1) during the period the university has been

accredited (or previously recognized), and (2) by the time that an application for member is filed. If you are unsure about the status of your planning degree, consult the Planning Accreditation Board's list or contact AICP.

*** Non-accredited undergraduate planning degrees and degrees in related and other disciplines (i.e. Geography, Architecture, History, Music, etc.) at undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

Source: American Planning Association

Based on the above chart, an applicant with a [non-planning] undergraduate degree and four years of professional planning experience is qualified to take the certification exam.

The AICP Comprehensive Planning Examination consists of 170 multiple-choice questions covering the following major areas:

1. History, Theory and Law [15%]
2. Plan Making and Implementation [30%]
3. Functional Areas of Practice [25%]
4. Spatial Areas of Practice [15%]
5. Public Participation and Social Justice [10%]
6. AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct [5%]

3. Include the learning goals (what students are expected to gain, achieve, know, or demonstrate by completion of the program) and requirements for each program.

Upon completion of this certificate program:

Goal 1. Graduates will have an advanced knowledge of the principles and practices of community planning and development in the U.S. that would support their future professional planning practice in public and private sectors as well as non-governmental organizations.

Goal 2. Graduates will have an advanced knowledge and technical skills in functional areas of planning, including land use planning, environment planning and urban design.

4. Demonstrate that student learning is assessed based on clear statements of learning outcomes and expectations.

At the completion of the certificate program, students learning outcomes for each learning goal are:

Goal 1 Above

Outcome 1 - Graduates will know the history of planning practice, plan making and implementation in the U.S. at the federal, state and local levels.

Goal 2 Above

Outcome 1 - Graduates will be able to apply technical skills in a functional area of planning of their choosing, including land use planning, environmental planning and urban design to solve problems in urban, suburban and rural settings.

F. FACULTY AND STAFF: The faculty and support staff for the program should be sufficient in number and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and other attributes necessary to the success of the program.

- 1. Describe the faculty who will be assigned to the program. Indicate total full-time equivalent (FTE) positions required for the program, the proportion of program faculty who will be in tenure-track positions, and whether faculty positions will be new positions or reassignment of existing positions.**

Farhad Atash will manage the certificate program. He will measure the overall success of the program on an annual basis. He will also measure the attainment of learning outcomes for students using the proposed rubric. The College of the Environment and Life Sciences (CELS) has offered its support to help Farhad Atash administer the new program in the future.

The courses will be offered by four faculty in the Department of Landscape Architecture as well as four faculty from Marine Affairs Department, Political Science Department and Master of Public Administration Program at URI:

Farhad Atash, Professor, Landscape Architecture, existing position
William Gordon, Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture, existing position
William Green, Professor, Landscape Architecture, existing position
Richard Sheridan, Professor, Landscape Architecture, existing position
Austin Becker, Assistant Professor, Marine Affairs and Landscape Architecture (Joint Appointment), existing position
Robert Thompson, Professor, Marine Affairs, existing position
Robert Weygand, Director, Master of Public Administration, existing position
Skye Leedahl, Assistant Professor, Political Science, existing position

These faculty have been provided a copy of this Community Planning Certificate proposal to review and all of the feedback we have received has been positive and supportive.

No new FTEs are required for the certificate.

G. STUDENTS: The program should be designed to provide students with a course of study that will contribute to their intellectual, social and economic well-being. Students selected should have the necessary potential and commitment to complete the program successfully.

- 1. Describe the potential students for the program and the primary source of students. Indicate the extent to which the program will attract new students or will draw students from existing programs and provide a specific rationale for these assumptions. For graduate programs, indicate which undergraduate programs would be a potential source of students.**

We anticipate three types of students working toward this certificate. (1) Students enrolled in existing graduate programs (e.g. Public Administration, MESM, Marine Affairs, Civil Engineering) will enter this certificate program to obtain this credential in

addition to their graduate degree. (2) We expect to attract students who possess a Bachelor's degree and want to learn Community Planning skills to enhance their employability. These students would complete the program in two semesters. (3) Finally, we expect to attract working professionals who require advanced training in Community Planning and will complete the requirements for the certificate in 3-4 semesters as part-time students. Inasmuch as there is no similar certificate program at URI, we will not be redirecting students from another program to ours.

The Community Planning Certificate will be granted in three different ways:

1. As a stand-alone certificate to students meeting the course requirements.
2. As a precursor to a graduate degree. Students who come to URI for the certificate might choose to expand their studies and enter a Master's Degree Program (such as MESM or Master of Marine Affairs in CELS or MPA in Arts and Sciences). In cases such as these, credits taken to satisfy the certificate requirement may count toward the graduate degree.
3. Concurrent with a graduate degree. A matriculating graduate student who can satisfy the Community Planning Certificate requirements in conjunction with the courses identified in their graduate degree Program of Study would be eligible to receive the Community Planning Certificate.

Admission requirements are: Bachelor's degree from an accredited College or University. International students are required to have an overall TOEFL score of 80 or more AND meet the minimum in each individual area: Reading 20, Writing 22, Listening 17, Speaking 17. GREs are not required.

L. EVALUATION: Appropriate criteria for evaluating the success of a program should be development and used.

- 1. List the performance measures by which the institution plans to evaluate the program. Indicate the frequency of measurement and the personnel responsible for performance measurements. Describe provisions made for external evaluation, as appropriate.**

Atash will measure the success of the overall program (annually) using the following rubric. Threshold values for each cell are based on our initial expectations for the certificate program.

Metric	Successful Beyond Expectations	As Expected	Does Not Meet Expectation
<p><u>Number of applicants per year.</u> The larger this number, the more successful the program. If we get no applicants in the first three years, we will assume we misjudged the marketplace. Since all the classes used to meet the requirements for the certificate are already being taught, there will be no impact if the program is poorly subscribed.</p>	Over 15	1-15	0
<p><u>Number of matriculating students.</u> We will monitor the number of students actively pursuing the Certificate. Because we might be having part-time students who need extra time to complete the requirements for the certificate, the number of matriculating students will give us a good indication of program vitality.</p>	Over 10	1-10	0
<p><u>Number of certificates granted per year.</u> Students should be able to complete the certificate in two semesters if they take three and two classes during the two semesters respectively. Part-time students should be able to complete the program in four semesters. If students fail to complete the requirements in these time frames, we will have to determine what the obstacles are.</p>	Over 10	1-10	0
<p><u>Student diversity.</u> We will advertise the Community Planning certificate to reach students representing a diversity of cultures, genders, ages and state of career.</p>	Retention and completion of certificate for all students	Some representation of diversity in student population	No diversity in student population

Atash will measure the attainment of learning outcomes for students using the following rubric:

<i>Goal 1- Outcome 1 – Graduates will know the history of planning practice, plan making and implementation in the U.S. at the federal, state and local levels.</i>			
Element/Evaluation Point	Accomplished	Proficient	Novice
<p>Plan Making and Implementation as well as Spatial Areas of Planning Practice</p> <p>Students will be evaluated using (1) research papers; (2) class presentations; (3) exams; and (4) individual or group assignments and projects.</p>	<p>Advanced knowledge and technical skills in visioning and goal setting, the analyses of demographics and natural and built environment, land use and development regulations, budget and financing options, plan development, evaluation and implementation at the national, state and local levels.</p>	<p>Satisfactory understanding and skills in planning process, evaluation and implementation at the national, state and local levels.</p>	<p>Unable to participate and perform tasks related to plan making and implementation at the local and state levels.</p>

<i>Goal 2 - Outcome 1 - Graduates will be able to apply technical skills in a functional area of planning of their choosing, including land use planning, environmental planning and urban design to solve problems in urban, suburban and rural settings.</i>			
Element/Evaluation Point	Accomplished	Proficient	Novice
<p>Functional Areas of Planning Practice</p> <p>Students will be evaluated using (1) individual or group projects and (2) class presentations.</p>	<p>Advanced knowledge and technical skills in land use planning and regulations, environmental planning and law as well as urban design in different geographical contexts.</p>	<p>Satisfactory understanding and skills in land use planning, environmental planning and urban design practice.</p>	<p>Unable to participate in planning practice in the areas of land use planning, environmental planning and urban design.</p>

Evaluation Roadmap: The proposed certificate program is based on a developmental collection of five courses guided by the student interests. Student Evaluation of learning outcomes will occur at the following required, core and elective courses within the Community Planning Certificate Program.

Learning Outcome	Required Course	Core Courses					
	CPL 410	CPL 434	CPL 450	CPL 483	CPL 485	CPL/MAF 516	PSC 505*
<u>Goal 1 - Outcome 1</u> – Graduates will know the history of planning practice, plan making and implementation in the U.S. at federal, state and local levels.	X	X		X	X	X	
<u>Goal 2 - Outcome 1</u> - Graduates will be able to apply technical skills in a functional area of planning of their choosing, including land use planning, environmental planning and urban design to solve problems in urban, suburban and rural settings.	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Note: * PSC 505 “Public Program Evaluation” course is included in the list of core courses of the certificate program to cover research design and methodologies associated with the evaluation of governmental programs and activities.

Learning Outcome	Elective Courses							
	CPL 538	CPL 549	LAR 444	LAR 445	MAF 465	MAF 475	MAF 564	PSC 524
<u>Goal 1 - Outcome 1</u> – Graduates will know the history of planning practice, plan making and implementation in the U.S. at federal, state and local levels.								
<u>Goal 2 - Outcome 1</u> - Graduates will be able to apply technical skills in a functional area of planning of their choosing, including land use planning, environmental planning and urban design to solve problems in urban, suburban and rural settings.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Memorandum

TO: Professor Farhad Atash

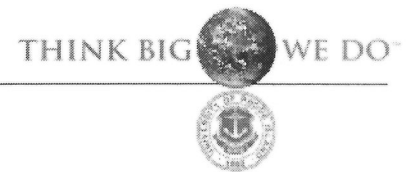
FROM: Professors Peter August & Arthur Gold, MESM

DATE: September 13, 2014

We have reviewed your proposal for a graduate certificate in Community Planning and, with great enthusiasm, support this initiative. We are confident that students in the MESM program (Masters of Environmental Science and Management) will find the grad certificate in Community Planning an exciting addition to their MESM studies. The graduate certificate in GIS and Remote Sensing has been on the books for one year now. It has 20 students enrolled or graduated. A large number of these students are concurrently enrolled in the MESM or Marine Affairs graduate program and are excited about adding a GIS credential to their resume. We also have a significant number of students new to URI many of whom are considering extending their stay and enrolling in a Master's program. We are certain that your certificate in Community Planning will be an attractive draw for new students to URI. This message was made clear to both of us in a meeting of RI's community planning leadership last year; they made a strong plea for more graduate programs to train the next generation of planners for the region. Your certificate program is an excellent step in that direction.

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND

COLLEGE OF
ARTS AND SCIENCES



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
206 Washburn Hall, Kingston, RI 02881 USA p: 401.874.2183 f: 401.874.4012 uri.edu/artsci/psc

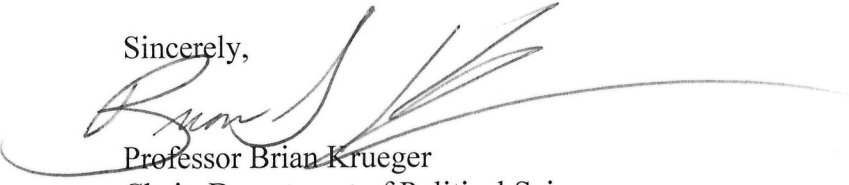
9/9/2014

Dear Curricular Committee:

Since the elimination of the URI graduate degree program in Community and Regional Planning there has been a void in the graduate educational opportunities for community land use planners in Rhode Island. The proposal by the College of Environment and Life Sciences and the Landscape Architecture Department for a graduate certificate in community planning will help fill that void. We heartily support the proposed curriculum for the graduate certificate, which includes two political science graduate level courses (PSC 505 and 524). Should the need exist to offer more sections of PSC 505 & 524 to accommodate community planning graduate certificate students, the College of Environment and Life Sciences has agreed to cover the cost of the associated part time instructors. We envision that many community planning certificate students will enroll in the MPA program and MPA students may elect to focus their electives in the community planning certificate program. This will have a positive impact for both programs. We agree to also promote this certificate to our MPA students.

By way of review, the Master of Public Administration is a decades-old, professional, non-thesis graduate program that is housed in the Department of Political Science. Many of Rhode Island's public administrators in governmental, non-profit and non-governmental agencies have received their graduate education through URI's MPA program.

Sincerely,



Professor Brian Krueger
Chair, Department of Political Science
203 Washburn Hall
University of Rhode Island

DATE: September 9, 2014

TO: Dr. Nasser H. Zawia
Dean, Graduate School

FROM: Linda Barrett
Director, Budget and Financial Planning

SUBJECT: Proposal for Graduate Certificate in Community Planning

As requested in your email dated September 02, 2014, the Budget and Financial Planning Office has reviewed the proposal.

According to the proposal submitted, the faculty of the Department of Landscape Architecture approved the proposal on August 25, 2014 and you have reviewed the draft proposal. The existing courses will be offered by four faculty from the Department of Landscape Architecture as well as four faculty from Marine Affairs Department, Political Science Department and Master of Public Administration Program at URI; thus no new faculty and courses are required for the proposed certificate program.

As reflected in the proposal, only one course is required for all students pursuing the certificate program. The required course is CPL 410. The remaining courses are divided between the core courses and elective courses. In each category, the students have a list of classes to choose from it. Therefore, if the faculty with a limited position will not be available to teach his/her course beyond 6.30.16; my understanding is that it will not cause a problem in delivering the certificate program. There are at least two alternative solutions to mitigate this issue. First, the department/college associated with the course may have another faculty teaching it. Secondly, if there are no faculty to offer the course, consideration would be given to removing the course from the certificate program and perhaps replacing it with another related course. As Professor Atash indicated to me, he believes that the certificate program can be delivered beyond 6.30.16 with one less course and one less faculty member.

The Budget and Financial Planning Office concurs that the Graduate Certificate in Community Planning has no budget impact on the unrestricted budget as it has been presented.

Please let us know if you require any further information.

cc: Donald DeHayes
Cliff Katz
Dean Libutti
John Kirby
Cheryl Hinkson
Colleen Robillard
Farhad Atash

Re: Revised Community Planning Certificate Proposal

From : Elaine <efinan@mail.uri.edu>

Thu, Sep 11, 2014 03:11 PM

Subject : Re: Revised Community Planning Certificate Proposal

To : Farhad Atash <fatash@mail.uri.edu>

Good afternoon, Farhad,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet and discuss the exciting new certificate program in Community Planning. The revised section on program goals, outcomes and mapping are complete and will hopefully serve as a guide for you and your faculty as you prepare for implementation of the certificate.

Good luck with your next steps in the approval process.

Best regards,

Elaine

On 9/10/14, 2:29 PM, "Farhad Atash" <fatash@mail.uri.edu> wrote:

>Hi Elaine,

>

>Many thanks for meeting with me on a short notice. It was a pleasure
>meeting with you.

>

>I am pleased to share you with you the revised proposal. I did my best to
>follow your suggestions for the "Student Learning Outcomes" section of
>the proposal. As you recommended, I deleted one of the three learning
>goals and made the improvements to the remaining two goals.

>

>Hope you find the revised proposal satisfactory. I look forward to
>receiving your endorsement of our proposal.

>

>Thanks again for your assistance.

>

>Sincerely,

>

>Farhad Atash

>
