Agenda Title: Proposal from Faculty of Science to change the name of the Urban and Regional Planning Programs to the School of Urban and Regional Planning

Motion: THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposed name change of the Urban and Regional Planning Programs in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences in the Faculty of Science to the School of Urban and Regional Planning within the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, to take effect upon final approval.

Item

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Requested</th>
<th>X Approval ☐Recommendation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposed by</td>
<td>Dr. Jonathan Schaeffer, Dean of Faculty of Science</td>
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</table>
| Presenter(s)     | Dr. Jonathan Schaeffer, Dean, Faculty of Science  
|                  | Dr. Stephen Johnston, Chair, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences  
|                  | Dr. Sandeep Agrawal, Professor and Director, Associate Chair, Urban and Regional Planning Programs, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences |

Details

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<tr>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Office of the Provost &amp; Vice-President (Academic)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Purpose of the Proposal is (please be specific)</td>
<td>To rename the existing Planning Program to the School of Urban and Regional Planning within the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Summary (outline the specific item– and remember your audience)</td>
<td>This proposal rebrands the Planning Program to the School of Urban and Regional Planning within the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences in the Faculty of Science.</td>
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</table>

The proposed School will encompass the currently exiting four academic degree programs within the department that are commonly collectively referred to as the ‘Planning Program’. The Planning Program includes two undergraduate programs, the BA Major and BSc Specialization, a Master’s program (MSc Planning) and a PhD with specialization in Planning. The Program currently has close to 80 undergraduate, 35 MSc and 6 PhD students. One postdoctoral fellow will be joining the Program as of September 1st 2018.

The proposal is simply to change the name of the existing Planning Program to the School of Urban and Regional Planning. It does not purport to create a new academic unit. Neither does it change what appears on students’ parchment. Furthermore, the renaming will not change the degree credential or any other elements of the undergraduate or graduate programs in Planning.

The Planning Program is one of the only two programs in Canada (the other is U of Waterloo) that offer BA/BSc, MSc and PhD degrees. The members of the Program are very active in the local community and in maintaining a strong relationship with the industry including the City of Edmonton and other municipalities across the province. We have actively built up an endowment (with Brookfield Residential being a
major contributor to date), which is being used for students’ scholarships and to hold an annual distinguished speaker event. Industry partners, such as Stantec and Beaverbrook also support several students’ awards and scholarships.

Since its inception in 2012, the Program has been headed by a Director and an Associate Director (since 2016), and is supported by 6.5 full time faculty members, over 10 sessional lecturers and a part-time Program Administrator. The Director has been recently appointed as an Associate Chair in the Department. The Program’s Advisory Committee provides guidance and insight concerning the program including curriculum development, strategic direction, accreditation, relevance of course material, fundraising and assistance in the development of co-operative education partnerships. It consists of many industry partners and representatives of the U of Alberta. The members are: Jodie Wacko, VP, Beaverbrook Development; Peter Ohm, Chief Planner, City of Edmonton; Michael Walters, Councillor Ward 10; Roger Epp, Director of UAlberta North; Gary Klassen, General Manager, City of Edmonton; Naomi Krogman, Professor and Associate Dean, FGSR, U of Alberta; Simon O’Byrne, VP, Stantec; and Bruce Duncan, Fellow of CIP; former General Manager of the City of Edmonton and two ex-officios.

The Program currently suffers in terms of its identity in a Department whose name does not reflect the presence of the Planning Program. Moreover, the Program is subject to intensive accreditation review based on the standards set by the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Alberta Professional Planners Institute, the national and provincially-based regulatory bodies of the planning profession respectively. The review is conducted by a team of planning practitioners and academics every 5 years.

In a recent accreditation review, the site visit team questioned the limited visibility of the Program within the Department. It recommended the renaming along with a separate designation for the Planning courses so that it can distinguish itself from other academic units within the Department including Human Geography. This is important because there has been confusion expressed at times as to whether the Planning Program at the U of A is part of the Human Geography program or whether it is a ‘legitimate’ planning program.

Out of 16 Planning programs across the country, the vast majority of the units are identified as a “School”, department of planning or department that encompasses the name “Planning”. By creating a School, we would: be in line with other planning academic institutions across the country; be compliant with the accreditation recommendations; create name recognition; develop an independent identity; and eliminate any confusion about the legitimacy of the degree programs for the potential undergraduate and graduate students and the external planning community.
This change will not add any additional cost to the University. It may however require funds for branding and marketing purposes.

This change is cosmetic in nature. It does not lead to any day-to-day changes to the faculty, staff, or students. To further the process of clarifying identity, the existing "PLAN" designator that is currently being used for the MSc Planning degree program will also be used for the undergraduate program. This effort will be advanced with forthcoming calendar changes. This was also a requirement from the accreditation review.

The Planning Program appears in a few places in the University Calendar. We would like replace it with “School of Urban and regional Planning”. Other changes are described in the attached proposed calendar change.

We would like the name change of the existing Planning Program be approved soon so that it can be launched in early 2019 just before the upcoming accreditation of the graduate program. As stated before, with a separate application, we will also proceed with changes to the designation of Planning courses so that they are entered into the 2019-20 calendar.

Supplementary Notes and context

<This section is for use by University Governance only to outline governance process.>

Engagement and Routing (Include meeting dates)

Consultation and Stakeholder Participation (parties who have seen the proposal and in what capacity)

<For information on the protocol see the Governance Toolkit section Student Participation Protocol>

Those who are actively participating:
- Dr. Jonathan Schaeffer, Dean
- Dr. Stephen Johnston, Chair, EAS
- Dr. Sandeep Agrawal, Professor and Director, Urban and Regional Planning Programs, EAS
- Dr. Robert Summers, Faculty Service Officer and Associate Director, Urban and Regional Planning Programs, EAS

Those who have been consulted:
The Provost’s Office was consulted concerning the viability of using “School” as part of the name for a programming unit. The Chair of EAS and colleagues in the Department have been part of the discussions as well. The Dean of FGSR, the Dean of Arts, and the Dean of Science were consulted and submitted letters of support. The Planning Program advisory committee, which consists of our industry partners, was also consulted as were the professional bodies regulating planning in Alberta and Canada.

Approval Route (Governance) (including meeting dates)

Faculty of Science Chairs Council (approved on Sept 6th 2018); GFC Academic Planning Committee

Strategic Alignment
Alignment with *For the Public Good*  
This proposal supports Institutional Strategic Plan objective(s)/strategies to attract top students and faculty to the Planning Program. It also conforms with the university’s objective to communicate and collaborate with internal and external stakeholders, especially, community organizations, industry, and governments. Another advantage of the proposal is that it will help the unit and the University at large enhance, increase, and sustain community relations, community engagement, and community-engaged research and scholarship.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alignment with Institutional Risk Indicator</th>
<th>There is no real or potential risk to the institution.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Legislative Compliance and jurisdiction</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</table>

Attachments

1. Planning Program brochure
2. Proposed School governance
3. Letters of support from:
   a. the Dean of Science
   b. the Dean of Arts
   c. the Dean of FGSR
   d. the EAS Chair
   e. the Planning Program Advisory Committee members
      i. Jodie Wacko, VP, BeaverBrook Communities
      ii. Michael Walters, City Councillor, Ward 10
      iii. Bruce Duncan, former General Manager, City of Edmonton
      iv. Peter Ohm, Chief Planner, City of Edmonton
      v. Roger Epp, Director, UAlberta North, former Vice Provost, U of Alberta
   f. the Alberta Professional Planners Institute
   g. the Canadian Institute of Planners
   h. Geography and Planning Students Society

*Prepared by:* Dr. Jonathan Schaeffer, Dean jonathan@ualberta.ca; Dr. Stephen Johnston, EAS Chair stjohnst@ualberta.ca; Dr. Sandeep Agrawal, Director sagrawal@ualberta.ca; Dr. Robert Summers, Associate Director Robert.summers@ualberta.ca
School of Urban and Regional Planning
Governance

1. Institutional Framework
   1.1. The School of Urban and Regional Planning (hereafter referred to as the School) is a Program within the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences within the Faculty of Science.

2. Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department Chair
   2.1. Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department Chair (hereafter referred to as the Chair) is the Department level authority for the School. As noted below, many Department-level responsibilities are deferred to the Director and Associate Chair – Urban and Regional Planning.

3. School Director and Associate Chair – Urban and Regional Planning
   3.1. The School Director and Associate Chair – Urban and Regional Planning (hereafter referred to as the Director) has the responsibility to administer, implement and develop the School’s undergraduate and graduate programs in consultation with the Chair and the departmental Associate Chairs Undergraduate and Graduate.
   3.2. The Director position will be an administrative position, but the incumbent will have the same research, teaching and service obligations as all faculty members in EAS. The Director will, however, receive a teaching reduction of 1.0 courses for directing the School.
   3.3. The Director will be appointed for a five-year term with the possibility of re-appointment by the Department Chair.
   3.4. The Director has the right to contact the Dean of Science or Dean of Arts regarding program issues, inter-faculty issues, ongoing initiatives, or on issues of concern regarding the viability of the program.
   3.5. The Director is responsible for leading the accreditation of both undergraduate and graduate programs in the School.

4. Undergraduate Programs
   4.1. The School’s Director will, in consultation with the Chair and the departmental Associate Chair Undergraduate, manage the School’s undergraduate programs (BA Major in Planning and BSc Specialization in Planning). Responsibilities will include, but are not limited to:
   4.1.1. Scheduling courses
   4.1.2. Assigning teaching
   4.1.3. Undertaking student Recruitment (including Open House)
   4.1.4. Administering admissions
   4.1.5. Providing student advising oversight
   4.1.6. TA Assignments
   4.1.7. Bringing forward to the departmental council suggested Curriculum and Calendar Changes
   4.1.8. Co-op/internship placements

5. Graduate Programs
   5.1. The School’s Director will, in consultation with the Chair and the departmental Associate Chair Undergraduate and Associate Chair Graduate, manage the School’s MSc in Urban and Regional Planning Program. Responsibilities will include, but are not limited to:
   5.1.1. Scheduling courses
   5.1.2. Assigning teaching
5.1.3. Student recruitment  
5.1.4. Administering admissions  
5.1.5. Providing student advising oversight  
5.1.6. TA Assignments  
5.1.7. Assigning graduate supervision  
5.1.8. Bringing forward to the departmental council suggested Curriculum and Calendar Changes  
5.1.9. Co-op/internship placements  
5.1.10. Program awards and scholarships

6. **Non-Academic Staff Management**

6.1. The Planning Administrator will report to the Assistant Chair (Administration), but job duties will be directed by the Director as per the job description of the position.

7. **School’s Committees**

7.1. The School of Urban and Regional Planning will have service committees which will be considered Department level committees for the purpose of faculty evaluation. At present these include the following:

7.1.1. Graduate Admissions Committee  
7.1.1.1. The purpose of the Committee is to review and make decisions on the MSc (Planning) applications and any scholarships and awards available to Planning students.  
7.1.1.2. The Committee, chaired by the Director, will consist of at least three faculty members including the Director.

7.1.2. Celebration of Planning Committee  
7.1.2.1. The Committee will be responsible for organizing the Celebration of Planning, the annual event of the School, in concert with industry partners.

7.1.3. Web Publishing and Newsletter Committee  
7.1.3.1. The purpose of the Committee is to oversee and create the content of the School’s web pages and to publish the School’s annual newsletter.

7.1.4. Facilities Management Committee  
7.1.4.1. The Committee will make decisions regarding the effective management and use of the Planning Studio Facilities and future resources assigned to the School by the Department.

7.1.5. Planning Programs Advisory Committee  
7.1.5.1. The purpose of the Committee is to provide guidance and insight concerning the program including curriculum development, strategic direction, accreditation, relevance of course material, fundraising and assistance in the development of co-operative education partnerships.  
7.1.5.2. The Committee will meet at least once a year or more frequently as determined by the Director.  
7.1.5.3. The Committee will include professionals and academics as appointed by the Director. The committee will be chaired by the Director.
7.2. The Director can, in consultation with the Chair, establish further committees or modify the above committees as needed. The Director will write terms of reference of the above committees and appoint individuals to these committees in consultation with the Chair.

8. School’s Academic Staff

8.1. The role of Academic Staff assessment rests with Department Chair.

8.2. The Director will conduct the annual performance interviews for Planning faculty and make recommendations to the Chair.

8.3. In promotion and tenure cases, the Director will provide written advice to the Chair.

8.4. The Director will ensure that junior faculty in the School are mentored and provided with the opportunities they need to succeed.

9. Appointments

9.1. The School of Urban and Regional Planning will have associated academic appointments including the following:

9.1.1. Associate Director – The Associate Director will assist the Director with the administration of the program.

9.1.2. Undergraduate Advisor – The Undergraduate Advisor will be the academic advisor for the BSc and BA programs.

9.1.3. Graduate Advisor – The Graduate Advisor will be the academic advisor for the MSc and PhD students.

10. Faculty and Staff Hiring

10.1. The Director will identify faculty hiring needs and make the case for new hires to the Chair.

10.2. The Director will actively participate in the departmental hiring committees meant to hire faculty and staff in the School.

11. Budget

11.1. The School’s budget will fall under Director’s authority. The budget will operate through the EAS office. Additionally, the School will make use of existing department resources such as the DIF lab, existing computer labs, and other existing and future resources.

12. Planning Courses

12.1. HGP courses can be identified as Planning courses, Human Geography and Planning Courses, and/or Human Geography courses. In the near future, a proposal will be made to establish separate undergraduate course designators for the two programs. At present, that breakdown is as follows:

- Human Geography and Planning
  - HGP 100 Cultures, Landscapes and Geographic Space
  - HGP 240 Cities and Urbanism
  - HGP 250 Natural Resources and Environmental Management
  - HGP 342 The Spatial Economy
  - HGP 355 Environmental Planning
  - HGP 470 Geographical Information Systems and Advanced Cartography for Social Sciences

- Human Geography
  - HGP 381 Topics in Human Geography or Planning (Multiple Sections)
AND/OR Planning  
(Designated on a Case by Case Basis)
- HGP 399 Research Methods in Human Geography and Planning (two sections)
- HGP 497 Directed Study in Human Geography or Planning
- HGP 498 Directed Study in Human Geography or Planning II*
- HGP 499 Practical Study in Human Geography and Planning

Planning
- HGP 210 Introduction to Human Geography and Planning
- HGP 211 Design Fundamentals for Planners
- HGP 310 Land Use Planning and Policy
- HGP 315 Community Planning and Engagement
- HGP 316 Planning Law
- HGP 317 Planning Theory
- HGP 355 Environmental Planning
- HGP 410 Professional Planning Practice and Ethics
- HGP 412 Finance for Planners
- HGP 485 Advanced Topics in Planning (Multiple Sections)
- HGP 495 – Planning Studio
- Additional undergraduate and/or graduate Planning courses as added

Human Geography
- HGP 252 Human Dimensions of Environmental Hazards
- HGP 341 Social and Cultural Geography
- HGP 343 Health, Space and Place
- HGP 382 Topics in Regional Geography
- HGP 443 Environment and Health
- HGP 450 Resource Management and Environmental Policy
- HGP 452 Human Dimensions of Environmental Change
- HGP 481 Advanced Topics in Human Geography
- All Graduate HGP courses
- Additional undergraduate and/or graduate Human Geography courses as added

12.2. All courses with a PLAN designator are Planning courses under the School of Urban and Regional Planning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>course ID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLAN 500</td>
<td>Planning for Resilient Cities and Regions</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLAN 501</td>
<td>Planning for Northern Regions and Resource Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLAN 503</td>
<td>Master’s Project Proposal</td>
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<td>PLAN 505</td>
<td>Master’s Major Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLAN 506</td>
<td>Master’s Planning Internship</td>
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<td>PLAN 510</td>
<td>Physical Planning and Design Fundamentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLAN 511</td>
<td>Professional Practice and Ethics</td>
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<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLAN 512</td>
<td>Advanced Finance for Planners</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLAN 515</td>
<td>Community Planning and Engagement</td>
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<td>PLAN 516</td>
<td>Planning Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLAN 517</td>
<td>Advanced Planning Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLAN 555</td>
<td>Advanced Environmental Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLAN 570</td>
<td>Advanced GIS for Planners</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLAN 585</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLAN 595</td>
<td>Advanced Planning Studio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLAN 598</td>
<td>Advanced Research Methods and Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLAN 599</td>
<td>Advanced Practical Field Study in Planning</td>
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**13. Current Planning Faculty and Teaching Resources**

13.1. 1.0 Science Faculty Position [Manish Shirgaokar]
13.2. 1.0 Science Faculty Position [Leith Deacon]
13.3. 1.0 Science Faculty Position [Amrita Singh]
13.4. 1.0 Science Faculty Position [Jeff Birchall]
13.5. 1.0 Science Faculty Position and Director [Sandeep Agrawal]
13.6. 1.0 Science FSO Position and Associate Director [Robert Summers]
13.7. 0.5 Science Faculty Position [Kristof Van Assche]
13.8. 8-10 Professional Associate (Part Time Academic Staff) Positions
A NEW DEGREE IN A DEPARTMENT STEEPED IN HISTORY

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM
The MSc in Urban and Regional Planning is a course-based, professional degree providing advanced study of contemporary urban issues through research, study, and experiential learning modes.

The program is administered by the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences in the Faculty of Science, with deep roots in environmental science, climate change, community planning, and northern studies. Students have numerous opportunities for cross-disciplinary research, particularly with topics in human geography, and environmental earth sciences.

Students have access to top researchers in numerous areas including sustainable community development, livable communities, northern ecosystems management, and impacts of land use/land cover change. The ability to draw on this expertise, along with access to laboratory, studio, and field research facilities such as the geographic information systems lab, planning studio space, and the digital imaging facility allows our students and faculty to excel in a collaborative and supportive learning environment.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Experiential learning in the way of internships, the planning studio, and research projects keep our students connected to the community. Our strong relationship with both government and industry also allows us to bring professional planners into the classroom as teaching associates, through our Practicing Professionals Initiative.
The Urban and Regional Planning Program strives to inspire and challenge both our undergraduate and graduate students to work with the local communities and stakeholders and apply their collective knowledge and skills in creating more vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive communities. We welcome everyone’s thoughts, ideas and imaginations to be a part of this endeavor. We look forward to welcoming students and trust that our journey together will be filled with new discoveries, perspectives, and friendships. —Sandeep Agrawal, Professor and Director of the Planning Program.
WHAT SETS US APART

A focus on resilient planning and attention to issues related to climate change, resource dependency, economic change, winter cities, and northern towns makes our degree unique to Canada. In an era where climate and economic changes result in mass migration and increased urbanization, we have a responsibility to build resilient cities and communities.

The need to develop a critical understanding of environmental and economic processes in planning for growing regions and large and small towns becomes an integral thread throughout the degree.

The MSc in Urban and Regional Planning is offered in two streams to cater to a growing market of diverse professionals.

**TWO YEAR REGULAR STREAM:**
Designed for applicants with degrees other than planning and limited or no experience as a professional planner.

**ONE YEAR ACCELERATED STREAM:**
Designed for planning professionals looking to further their career. Applicants admitted to the accelerated stream will join year two of the program.

For program requirements visit [planning.eas.ualberta.ca](http://planning.eas.ualberta.ca)

FUNDING

Financial assistance is available on a competitive basis in the form of academic assistantships, awards, and scholarships.

OTHER PROGRAMS IN PLANNING

**DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN PLANNING**
For students interested in a doctoral program, we offer a PhD in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences with Specialization in Urban and Regional Planning
OPPORTUNITIES IN PLANNING

PhD candidate Lynne Mbaiojrgu’s research will investigate if and how local zoning bylaws, as well as municipal development plans, changed after natural disasters in Alberta. She is also the instructor for one of the university’s newest courses, “Oil & Building Resilient Communities”, a six-week course engaging students in discussions about building resilient communities in the context of Alberta’s oil and gas sector.

In May 2016, a wildfire swept through Fort McMurray, Alberta triggering the largest wildfire evacuation in Alberta history. Photo credit: John Ulani
RESEARCH AREAS

Our research areas span numerous aspects of urban planning including:

- Effects of human rights, multiculturalism, ethnicity and religion on urban structure and public policies, regional planning, land use and urban design and international development.—Sandeep Agrawal
- Local government decision dynamics around carbon management, and local government climate adaptation planning.—Jeff Birchall
- Environmental justice, environmental assessment, and sustainability.—Leith Deacon
- Transportation policy, land use planning, international development, and urban design.—Manish Shirgaokar
- Economic implications of environmental degradation and restoration of environmental amenities.—Amrita Singh
- Commercial development/redevelopment as public amenity, urban decay and revitalization, urban infill and densification rural water supply.—Robert Summers
- Evolution and innovation in governance; spatial, environmental and development policy.—Kristof Van Assche
- Planning and Healthcare, seniors and the built environment.—Kyle Whitfield

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES IN PLANNING

Opportunities to study planning at the undergraduate level are available through the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science.

The BA with a Major in Planning covers issues such as sustainability, economic development, urban design, and social concerns in planning, while the BSc Specialization in Planning focuses on the natural science elements of planning, including environmental management and the use of geographic information sciences.

Work experience opportunities as well as hands–on learning through field schools and studio projects are available for both degrees.

“WE WANT TO BUILD FORWARD–THINKING, SAFER, AND HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES IN ADVANCE OF NATURAL DISASTERS.”—LYNNE MBAJORGU
Almost a decade ago, the Planning Program in the Faculty of Science was created, housed in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. As Dean since 2012, I have invested Faculty resources in growing this program and building a strong Edmonton and Alberta reputation for it. The Planning Program has a full undergraduate program, a new (and over-subscribed) MSc program, growing ties to industry (including philanthropic support), and strong support from the City of Edmonton (including multiple student internships each year). By every metric, the program is a success.

I have attended numerous Planning Program events and met with many industry and government partners who work with the Planning Program and/or hire the Program’s graduates. The most common issue that arises is the Program’s identity. The Program is invisible, hidden in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, an excellent Department with a global reputation for research and teaching in the GeoSciences. People from outside the University do not understand what urban and regional planning has to do with geology. Thus, when the Planning Program accreditation committee required the Faculty of Science to create a visible identity for the Program, I enthusiastically supported it -- hence this proposal.

Creating the School of Urban and Regional Planning (administratively housed in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences) requires no additional on-going costs. It is a one-time effort to create brand identity. Further, the name change has no administrative cost implications, as the Planning Program already operated largely autonomously within the Department. The big win is that it gives the Program an external identity.

I urge the University of Alberta to quickly approve this proposal, so that we can start rebranding the Planning Program in time for recruiting of students in 2019.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Schaeffer

Date: August 22, 2018

To: Steven Dew
   Provost and Vice-President Academic

From: Jonathan Schaeffer, Dean
       Faculty of Science

Cc: Sandeep Agrawal, Director
    Urban and Regional Planning Program

Re: Creation of the School of Urban and Regional Planning
Re: Proposed School of Urban and Regional Planning

As the Chair of the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (EAS), I am pleased to be able to lend my support to the proposal to recognize our Planning Program as the School of Urban and Regional Planning. Although buried within an Earth Science department, our 'Planning Program' has achieved accreditation and attracted a growing, active and high quality student body. The program offers a BA for students interested in the social and economic aspects of community planning, and a BSc for those looking to better understand and to quantify the societal impacts on our environment. At the graduate level, students are provided with the opportunity to undertake accredited Standard 2 year and Accelerated 1 Year course-based MSc programs. And for those interested in advanced research into the principals and theoretical underpinnings of Planning there is a PhD program.

The success of our Urban and Regional Planning group is attributable to the strength of our faculty, the high quality of our students, the Professional Associates connected with the program, and an Advisory Committee that has provided guidance and insight concerning curriculum development, strategic direction, accreditation, relevance of course material, and fundraising. Graduates of Urban and Regional Planning are qualified for accreditation as registered professionals, find employment in the private and public sectors, and work alongside of architects, engineers, government administrators, and private landowners in building effective, sustainable and high quality urban and rural communities. A measure of the engagement of our students can be found in our active Geography And Planning Students’ Society (GAPSS). GAPSS advocates for and on behalf of all students in the Human Geography and Planning programs here at the University of Alberta, and provides a forum for all students interested in issues surrounding Urban and Regional Planning.

Rebranding our Planning Program as the School of Urban and Regional Planning would recognize the research and teaching excellence, societal impact and unique identity that has been forged by this vibrant group of faculty, staff and students. As Chair of EAS, I am proud of the success of our Planning Program and am pleased to have the opportunity to fully endorse their proposal to be rebranded as the School of Urban and Regional Planning.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen T. Johnston, Chair / Professor - Tectonics
Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, 1-26 Earth Sciences Building
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta Canada T6G 2E3
16 August 2018

Dr. Sandeep Agrawal  
Professor & Inaugural Director  
Urban and Regional Planning Programs  
3-107 Tory

Dear Dr. Agrawal:

I am writing to express the full support from the Faculty of Arts for the proposal to rename the Regional Planning Programs in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences in the Faculty of Science as the School of Urban and Regional Planning.

The Planning degrees offered by this program are a vibrant and important addition to programs at the University of Alberta. The Faculty of Arts participates in this program through the offering of a BA in Planning, delivered by the Regional Planning Program. This is a popular program, and we have had a strong and productive relationship with the Program as they developed and delivered these programs.

Renaming this program as the School of Urban and Regional Planning will make this program more visible and reflects best practice in other institutions across North America.

I look forward to greater visibility for the Program and to its major and continuing contribution to U of A, Edmonton, and the wider community.

Sincerely,

Lesley Cormack  
Dean, Faculty of Arts
Sandeep Agrawal  
Professor & Director, Urban and Regional Planning Programs  
Associate Chair, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences  
3-107 Tory, Urban Environment Observatory  
University of Alberta  

September 6, 2018  

Dear Dr. Agrawal,  

I am writing to confirm the support of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research for the proposal from the Faculty of Science to group the set of Urban and Regional Planning Programs into the School of Urban and Regional Planning. We understand that there are no changes to the naming of the graduate degrees themselves.  

FGSR acknowledges that the change would make the program more identifiable within and outside of the University, and aligns it to the standard among University Planning Programs across the country, and as such, we extend our support.  

Sincerely,  

[Signature]  

Debby Burshtyn, PhD  
Interim Vice-Provost and Dean  
Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research
August 24, 2018
Re: School of Urban and Regional Planning – Letter of Support

To Whom it May Concern,

Please accept this letter of support of the School of Urban and Regional Planning in their application for the establishment of the School of Urban and Regional Planning within the Department of Sciences at the University of Alberta. Currently, the Planning Program’s placement in the Earth and Atmospheric Science department in your prestigious organization is out of line with the group’s identity, being in a Department which does not properly reflect the program’s mandate and goals. The Planning Program houses many students and faculty taking great leaps in the area of Planning, which is beneficial not only for the University of Alberta, but also the community as whole. The Planning Program works to better the future for many individuals and fosters an ambitious academic community built on creating positive change.

I support this change and progressive step forward because:

- The Planning Program is a unique organization at the University, being one of the few programs of its kind in the country;
- This change would increase name recognition, and further enrich its identity within the organization as a whole
- The group’s activity in the community, working with communities for opportunities like scholarships and events to positively impact individuals pursuing education and/or work in the industry
- The creation of the School reaches the standard of Accreditation and legitimizes the program as a whole

This change would be a beneficial move for the University and the Planning Program. Placement in the Department of Sciences would foster a better identity for the program, being an advantageous direction for students, stakeholders, community organizations, and the program as a whole.

Sincerely,

Michael Walters
Ward 10 City Councillor
To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter as Presidents of the Geography and Planning Students’ Society, representing students from undergraduate and graduate programs in Human Geography and Planning at the University of Alberta.

This letter is an official expression of support of the proposal to re-distinguish the Planning Program as the School of Planning. We anticipate this change will yield many positive outcomes for students and the program, with relatively few, if any, negative side effects.

We are aware that most post secondary institutions offering planning programs have distinguished themselves in a manner where they identify as their own school, especially as their programs develop and become more highly regarded. Distinguishing the University of Alberta’s planning program in such a way would provide heightened credibility, visibility, and identity. These are particularly important aspects for a young and growing planning program, such as the University of Alberta’s.

Elevating the status of this program not only improves the odds of success of the program, but will also benefit students with Planning degrees who are entering the workforce, enabling them to be more competitive and well recognized. Over the past decade, we have welcomed our first undergraduate (BA and BSc), and masters (MSc) students in human geography and planning, and are anticipating promoting the University of Alberta’s Planning programs even further as the University hosts PLACE18, the first National Planning Student Conference in Canada since 2014.

We remain committed to both the needs of planning students and human geography students, and do not anticipate negative effects on either group; if anything, this provides a more distinct identity for both human geography and planning students, and thus a greater strength in diversity amongst our members.

The Geography and Planning Students’ Society is very excited about this potential new development and looks forward to seeing the University of Alberta Planning Program progress into the University of Alberta Planning School – a well deserved designation.

Sincerely,

Hayley Wasylycia, President of Undergraduate Studies
Jared Candlish, President of Graduate Studies
August 13, 2018

Sandeep Agrawal, PhD, AICP, MCIP
Professor & Inaugural Director, Urban and Regional Planning Programs
Associate Chair, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
University of Alberta
3-107 Tory, HM
Edmonton AB T6G 2H4

Dear Dr. Agrawal:

Thank you for your July 28, 2018, email regarding the proposal to rename the University of Alberta’s Urban and Regional Planning Programs to the School of Urban and Regional Planning. We are supportive of this change. The new name would make your educational offerings more visible to potential students, better communicate the integrated and professional nature of the planning programs, and contribute to the credibility of the programs by aligning the name with that of most other planning education programs across Canada.

The City of Edmonton has benefitted from the U of A's planning programs since the undergraduate programs began in 2012. Questions and ideas from students and professors have animated local planning thinking. Student internships have energized City initiatives. Alumni have made a excellent contributions as City employees and as consultants interacting with the City.

We look forward to more of the same from a rebranded planning school.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Peter Ohm, RPP, MCIP
Chief Planner
7 August 2018

Dr. Jonathan Schaeffer, Dean
Faculty of Science
University of Alberta

Dear Dean Schaeffer:

I write as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Urban and Regional Planning Program, for the purpose of supporting its formal redesignation as a School within the Faculty of Science.

The rationale prepared in support of redesignation is, for me, a compelling one – part of the rapid maturation of a “program” that now, as noted, offers multiple degrees for which it must secure professional accreditation and rightly aspires to take its place among academic peers (such as UBC’s School of Community and Regional Planning). Redesignation is therefore a prudent response to the challenges of institutional visibility and profile. It will strengthen recruitment of excellent students, relationships with employers and research partners, and loyalty among graduates as they take their place in the profession. As you will know, Urban and Regional Planning is, and must be, externally oriented in its work to a degree that is unusual within the University. It should not be hard to find or unclear about its identity.

Thanks for your support of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Roger Epp
Professor
August 17, 2018

Dr. Jonathan Schaeffer  
Dean of the Faculty of Science  
University of Alberta – Faculty of Science  
1-001 CCIS  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E9

Re: The proposal from University of Alberta’s Faculty of Science to change the name of the Urban and Regional Planning Program to the School of Urban and Regional Planning

Dear Dr. Schaeffer,

Established in 1919, the Canadian Institute of Planners is a national association that works on behalf of over 6,800 planning professionals. We are the voice of Canadian Planning and endeavour to raise the profile of professional planning and planners nationally and internationally, through leadership, advocacy, expertise, and education.

The Canadian Institute of Planners would like to express our support for the proposal from the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Science to change the name of the Urban and Regional Planning Program to the School of Urban and Regional Planning.

This change, recommended after a recent national accreditation review, would bring the University of Alberta in line with other planning academic institutions across the country. We also believe that it will elevate the stature of the University of Alberta’s extensive planning program offering. As a result, this could attract more planning students to the University and thereby our profession. It could also bring greater public and private sector awareness to the planning program, provide more opportunities to engage the local community, along with increased opportunities for research and scholarship.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate in contacting the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Mohammed  
MTCP, HBA. Env. Mgmt., RPP, MCIP  
President
August 13, 2018

Sandeep Agrawal, PhD, AICP, MCIP
Professor, Urban and Regional Planning Programs
3-107 Tory, Urban Environment Observatory,
University of Alberta, Canada

Dear Sir:

RE: Establishment of the School of Urban and Regional Planning

I’m pleased to write this letter, in my capacity as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Planning Program, and advise of my formal support for the establishment of the School of Urban and Regional Planning.

The school is proposed to be embedded in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences in the Faculty of Science and will house the 4 academic programs within the department that are commonly collectively referred to as the ‘Planning Program’. These includes two undergraduate programs, the BA Major and BSc Specialization, a new Master’s program (MSc Planning) and a PhD with specialization in Planning. The Program currently has close to 80 undergraduate, 35 graduate and 6 PhD students. 1 postdoctoral fellow will be joining the Program as of September 1st 2018.

The Planning Program is one of only a handful of such programs in Canada and prides itself in being very active in the local community and maintaining a strong relationship with the industry of which I’m a conduit. It has actively built up an endowment (from Brookfield Residential), which is being used for students’ scholarships and to hold annual distinguished speaker event. The industry partners such as Stantec and my company, Beaverbrook also support several students’ awards and scholarships.

Through my work on the Advisory Committee, I have noticed that the Program currently suffers in terms of its identity in a Department whose name also does not fully reflect what the Planning program is all about and what it does. The Program adheres to a set of requirements different from the rest of the Department. For instance, it undergoes an intensive accreditation review by a team of planning practitioners every 5 years.
In a recent accreditation review, the site visit team questioned the invisibility of the program within the Department and recommended the creation of a new entity along with a separate designation for the Planning courses so that it can distinguish itself from other academic units within the Department including Human Geography. I feel this is important because there has been confusion expressed at times as to whether the program at the U of A is just part of the Human Geography program or whether it is a 'legitimate' planning program.

By creating the School, it would be compliant with all the accreditation recommendations. Moreover, it would create name recognition, develop its own identity and eliminate any confusion to the potential undergraduate and graduate students and external planning community. Out of 16 or so Planning academic units across the country, a vast majority of the units are identified as a “School”.

Sincerely,

Jodie Wacko, RPP, MCIP
President, Communities and Commercial
Office 780.484.4389 | Direct 780.408.8117
Email jwacko@beaverbrook.ca
beaverbrook.ca
MEMORANDUM

August 15th, 2018

To: Sandeep Agrawal, Program Director
From: Bruce Duncan RPP FCIP
Subject: Planning School Name Change

I can support the name change proposed in your submission, Governance Executive Summary. The proposed name is a clearer indication as to what the school is teaching as well as being the much more common title for a planning program that strives to give students a broad exposure to land based planning.

My planning experience started in the Division of Town and Regional Planning at the University of Toronto, so naming the planning program at the University of Alberta "School of Urban and Regional Planning" just seem a logical thing to do. The curriculum in place will not be affected by the proposed name change.

If you require additional information regarding my support, please contact me.

Bruce Duncan RPP FCIP
August 20, 2018

Dr. Jonathan Schaeffer, PhD
Dean of Science
Faculty of Science
1-001 CCIS
University of Alberta
Edmonton AB  T6G 2E9

Dear Dr. Schaeffer:

On behalf of the Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI) please accept this letter of support for the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Science proposal to change the name of the Urban and Regional Planning Program to the School of Urban and Regional Planning. The Alberta Professional Planners Institute is the professional institute that regulates and advocates on behalf of over 1000 professional planners, in the public interest.

The University of Alberta’s accredited ‘Planning Program’ currently and collectively includes two undergraduate programs a new Master’s program and a PhD with a specialization in Planning. Since the inception of the original undergraduate programs, APPI has witnessed strong support of these programs from both the City of Edmonton and industry and the Institute’s engagement with the planning students and graduates from the program have been very favourable. We highly anticipate that the demand for academic training in planning will continue to grow and the profession appreciates the University of Alberta’s commitment to ongoing education of Alberta’s future professional planners.

APPI has been informed that the Faculty of Science is proposing to change the name of the Urban and Regional Planning Program to the School of Urban and Regional Planning. APPI fully supports this initiative and believes that the new proposed name more clearly articulates the program’s unique status with in the Faculty of Science and will elevate the program’s identity from other academic units within the Department, the University of Alberta and outside of the University of Alberta academic community. The proposed name, ‘School’ of Urban and Regional Planning’, will strongly establish the program as a distinct and ‘legitimate’ Canadian planning program, more in line with the accreditation standards for planning profession which require that the program offering the degree in planning shall be a recognizable administrative unit within the educational institution.

If you require more information about the Alberta Professional Planners Institute, please contact our MaryJane Alanko, APPI Executive Director, at execdir@albertaplanners.com or via phone at 780-297-0626.

Sincerely,

Erin O’Neill, RPP, MCIP
President, Alberta Professional Planners Institute