

December 2011

From the Commission

Update on AICP Tenured Faculty Proposal

After a first round of feedback from members, the AICP President has appointed a task force to examine and study all the concerns raised about the proposal to invite tenured faculty at PAB-Accredited planning schools to apply for AICP membership.

The Commission's draft proposal would have allowed professors to use their multi-tiered tenure process as an equivalent exam to the Comprehensive Planning Examination. Because the intent of the proposal was to more fully include members of the academy in the larger community of planners, the AICP task force — called the "Engagement of PAB-Accredited Planning Program Faculty Task Force" — is charged to develop and offer to the AICP Commission practical recommendations to more fully engage planning faculty with AICP and its membership.

About the Task Force

The group is tasked with developing substantive and thoughtful suggestions to engage faculty, as suggested by members through feedback to the initial proposal.

The Task Force will review all comments and related materials to date, determine if additional surveying is needed, and offer recommendations to the AICP Commission to increase engagement by accredited planning faculty with AICP and its membership. The group will also offer recommendations to the AICP Commission for improving relationships between the professional and academic communities.

The task force will be composed of two representatives from APA's Chapter Presidents Council, two members of the Divisions Council, two representatives from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, one APA Board Director, one member At-Large, and an AICP Commissioner as Facilitator:

Brian Campbell, FAICP (CPC/Oregon)
Denise Harris, AICP (CPC Liaison to AICP Commission)
Robert Lewis, AICP (DC/EcoDev)
David Fields, AICP (DC/Trans)
Chuck Connerly (ACSP President)
June Thomas, FAICP (ACSP VP/President-Elect)
Bruce Knight, FAICP (APA Board)
Genie Birch, FAICP (At-Large)
Paul Inghram, AICP (Facilitator for the Task Force)

The task force will review all comments received to date. Additional comments intended to inform the task force's deliberations and discussions should be sent to getinvolved@planning.org.

Timeline

In early February 2012, the task force will develop initial recommendations, taking into consideration the early feedback from membership. The AICP Commission will then request comments from members for the Task Force's use in developing a full list of recommendations.

By March 2012, the task force plans to prepare a full list of recommendations and provide them to the AICP Commission for further review and comment by membership.

After another round of member review in late March 2012, the recommendation will be revised and a proposal be offered for review by the membership, Chapter Presidents Council, Divisions Council, and Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, then consideration by the AICP Commission during the National Planning Conference meetings in April 2012.

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Original proposal language:

Tenured Faculty Membership Program

Under the terms of the Tenured Faculty Membership Program, AICP will invite currently tenured faculty in planning programs accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board to apply to join if they are not already AICP members. In the future, faculty who are granted tenure at PAB-accredited programs will be invited to apply for AICP membership. As with individuals who pass the Comprehensive Planning Examination, their membership in AICP will take effect when they pay APA, chapter, and AICP dues in full.

Responding to changes in the planning academy

AICP developed the Tenured Faculty Membership Program in response to extensive changes in U.S. planning programs. Thirty-five years ago, academic planning departments were "recognized" by the American Institute of Planners. Today, planning programs are accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board, a body established by APA and its professional institute, AICP, in concert with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. Increasingly, the PAB considers outcomes such as pass rates on the AICP exam when it evaluates a program.

In the early 1970s, many planning faculty were recruited directly from the field of practice and arrived on campus with an AIP credential awarded after an oral interview that served as the threshold exam. Few had doctorates. In 2011, doctoral degrees are common among individuals who join planning faculties at accredited university programs. Research and publication are expected and are key criteria for the grant of tenure. Achieving tenure typically requires an

extensive, written application that must be approved at several academic levels such as department, school, and university.

The AICP Commission invites feedback

The AICP Commission would like to hear from members before finalizing the program. Please read the questions and answers below and use the "Contact Us" section that follows to submit additional comments or questions about the Tenured Faculty Membership Program.

Q: Who is eligible for the Tenured Faculty Membership Program?

A: Faculty of planning programs accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board are eligible. Any faculty member in a PAB-accredited planning program may apply once he or she is granted tenure. Faculty members of non PAB-accredited programs are not eligible at this time.

Q: Is passing the Comprehensive Planning Examination required?

A: No. A university's grant of tenure requires an extensive written application that must be approved through a rigorous process that includes votes of approval at several stages. This will be considered as an alternative that is a written examination.

Q: Do these members have to pay AICP dues?

A: Yes. Like all AICP members, they must pay APA, chapter, and AICP dues.

Q: Do these members have to fulfill Certification Maintenance requirements?

A: Yes. Like all AICP members, they must fulfill CM requirements: 32 CM credits every two years, 1.5 of which meet the law requirement and 1.5 of which meet the ethics requirement.

Q: Is the reinstatement process any different for these members?

A: No. Like all AICP members, they must comply with AICP's reinstatement policy. If an individual's membership lapses for more than four years, he or she must follow the application procedures for new AICP membership, which includes passing the Comprehensive Planning Exam.