

# ACSP Presidency 2001-2003

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Summary of main activities and accomplishments

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as ACSP president during these past two years. I particularly appreciate the confidence placed in me by everyone since my shift from the deanship of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at UIC to its College of Business Administration created an unusual situation. I also am grateful for the support of my colleagues at UIC who allowed me to fulfill the commitment I had made to ACSP. Beyond that, all of the following activities and accomplishments are the result of the hard work of many people, almost all volunteers, without whom this organization would not exist.

As I said upon assuming the presidency, the first task is to make sure ACSP's main activities continue to function well. This has indeed been the case, even as we have faced some challenges:

**Conferences.** The 2002 conference in Baltimore was very well attended and was the most successful financially of any we have had. The third joint conference with AESOP was held this summer in Leuven. While attendance was a bit below projections, due to the SARS fears earlier in the year and budget problems at U.S. universities, there was widespread praise for the high quality of the sessions, and we made a little money on it. This fall's Administrator's Conference was our largest ever. Plans for future conferences, through 2007, are well underway.

**JPER.** The new publishing arrangement with Sage is working out reasonably well. It has significantly reduced the workload for the editors and is more favorable financially, although not yet at the level we had anticipated. The new editorial team will start to take over next year.

**Planning Accreditation Board.** The biggest crisis of the past two years no doubt was the conflict with the AICP about leadership of PAB. With the assistance of many, this was ultimately resolved without disruption to the ongoing activities, although the substantive disagreements about planning education and accreditation will continue to be debated. Fritz Steiner, R.E. LeMon, Tridib Banerjee, and Genie Birch were appointed or reappointed to the PAB.

**Organizational structure.** ACSP passed new bylaws and implemented its new governance system, including the new position of Vice President/President Elect, and a split of the Treasurer and Secretary positions. We incorporated for the first time, and successfully obtained tax-exempt status for the new

corporation. Organizational staffing was regularized, with Donna Dodd serving as conference planner, ACSP staff, and bursar. New chairs and members were

appointed for virtually all committees, including the four Standing Committees and the ten Special Committees and Taskforces.  
Presidential priorities

In addition to maintaining the major organizational activities, I identified four priorities (see ASCP Presidential Agenda, 2001-2003, JPER 21:424-425, 2002).

#### 1. Increase the Visibility of Planning and Planning Education.

Within ACSP, several committees deal with this goal. The Strategic Communications Committee has prepared materials to assist programs in marketing, and is planning a recruitment initiative. The Committee on the Academy and the Profession assisted several threatened programs and also organized the Administrators Conference and New Chairs School. A new joint committee with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and a book on smart growth jointly produced by ACSP and the U.S. EPA further contribute to our visibility.

#### 2. Increase Global Awareness in Planning Education and Research.

Thirty-three people volunteered for the newly formed Planning Globally Taskforce and its subcommittees on curriculum, study and research abroad, and international associations and conferences. The task force is undertaking or proposing a wide range of activities, including an edited volume, the 2006 World Planning Schools conference, a charter for the Global Planning Education Association Network, new accreditation criteria regarding global education, etc., and will be continued into the future.

#### 3. Increase Diversity.

The Diversity Committee has started discussions with the APA about the creation of internships for minority students with large planning agencies. The Committee has also proposed the appointment of diversity coordinators at member schools. Progress in achieving these goals has unfortunately been limited so far.

#### 4. Increase Collaboration with the Profession.

Relations with the profession were tainted because of the conflict over the PAB. However, in many areas collaboration proceeded productively, including meetings on practice-oriented research and the accreditation process itself. ACSP leadership participated in the recent APA Education Summit, and our 2004 conference in Portland will be held concurrently with the APA's Leadership Conference. New joint committees are being formed to move forward initiatives related to curriculum, education, and public relations.

Conclusion

Especially from my vantage point in a business school, I continue to be amazed and impressed with the commitment and values of planning educators. Our field has increased in visibility over the past few years, as suburban sprawl, urban revitalization, environmental awareness, and disaster preparedness command national attention. Many of our programs are growing, even as budgets are tightened. The organization is in good shape, structurally, financially, and in terms of human resources. Given the demands on everyone's time, a volunteer organization must be selective in setting its agenda. We are able to conduct our core business with experience and relative ease, albeit with considerable volunteer effort. Beyond that, we are capable of marshalling the people and resources to attack selected additional priorities. I urge ACSP to continue with most of the priorities I set two years ago, and wish us all well as we continue to make, and use, better plans.