November 15, 2024

Weiping Wu, Ph.D.

President

Planning Accreditation Board

2334 W. Lawrence Avenue

Suite 209
Chicago, IL 60625

Dear Weiping,

Thank you for sharing the second draft of proposed amendments to the Planning Accreditation Board’s (PAB) Accreditation and the opportunity to comment on them. We appreciate your consideration of our comments on the initial draft and noted the adoption of several into the current draft. We believe this underscores the PAB’s commitment to the pursuit of equity, diversity and inclusion within the academy and in professional practice.

We understand the challenging task before the PAB leadership and, as reflected in this draft, believe that you and your team have thoughtfully addressed the risks associated with setting a Standard that promotes the values and practices that we all support and work to advance. To further equity, diversity and inclusion, we suggest the following edit to Section 1.A, Strategic Plan:

*“The strategic plan shall include the Program’s definition of diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice consistent with the* [*PAB Value and Position Statement*](https://www.planningaccreditationboard.org/about-us/statements/?_gl=1*1o2tgf2*_up*MQ..*_ga*OTY1NzU1MTQzLjE3MzE2OTcxOTY.*_ga_M89XRTLYJX*MTczMTY5NzE5NS4xLjEuMTczMTY5NzQ2My4wLjAuMA)*, and goals and measurable objectives aimed at achieving them and shall highlight the Program’s proposed efforts to advance and support this definition.”*

Finally, we appreciate the increasing recognition and support of the critical role of AICP certification in further advancing and aligning education and practice with equity, diversity and inclusion as a foundational element. We believe that planners are—and must be--lifelong learners to help communities drive and adapt to change. And that both professional institute and academic institutions have unique and important roles to play in ensuring that they have the knowledge, skills and abilities (including the ability to learn *with* the future) to create great communities for all.

As always, we are here as a resource as you proceed toward finalizing and socializing these changes.

Sincerely,

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Angela Brooks, FAICP Karen Wolf, FAICP

President President

American Planning Association American Institute for Certified Planners