



Noteworthy Practices – Student Diversity

Appendix

2.B. Student Diversity – University of Utah

The Department of City & Metropolitan Planning in the College of Architecture + Planning at the University of Utah is honored to be recognized as an institution that has achieved the Planning Accreditation Board Standard 2B Student Diversity. We are still working on improving this standard as there is always room for growth. Two of the University of Utah’s Seven Commitments tie in with our program goals very closely and help us achieve a strong student body. The first is “Diversity: The New U Celebrates the rich diversity of people as well as creative and intellectual traditions by being inclusive in every respect” and the second “Building Community: The New U maintains a strong sense of community among students, faculty, and staff; builds community in the region; and cultivates meaningful university-neighborhood-city-region-state-global partnerships.” To be a successful program you must be inclusive and maintain a strong sense of community and that in turn provides a sense of pride in the program.

In order to achieve the Standard 2B Student Diversity we have made an effort to actively recruit a diverse group of students. We work very hard to meet any needs students may have in order to be able to join our program. This includes answering questions, searching for financial aid opportunities, creating an open house that allows the students to truly experience what the program can offer and what job opportunities are available in the community, and allowing the opportunity to speak with both faculty and current students on a one-on-one basis as much as possible before joining the program. We currently have two scholarships that are awarded to at least 5 students each year, the Eugene Carr/APA Scholarship (awarded to one student) and the City & Metropolitan Planning Scholarship (awarded to four students). On top of these scholarships we offer teaching/research assistantship positions that include a tuition benefit of 9-12 credit hours to at least 10 incoming students. The Department makes a conscious effort to engage in external relationships on campus to help fund more students. The department frequently partners with the Global Change and Sustainability Center and the Environmental Dispute Resolution Program at the SJ Quinney College of Law offering assistantships to students. Partnering with both of these collaborators allows for more students to have an opportunity for an assistantship and to learn the value of interdisciplinary skills when it comes to research. The assistantships give students the opportunity to work with faculty in their classroom and/or on their research. This allows students the opportunity to work while they attend school, but also creates an environment where they can get to know the faculty outside of the teacher/student and that in turn creates a sense of community.

The Chair of the Department works very hard to create opportunities for our students in the Salt Lake City community by meeting with local planning firms and planning agencies to create internships for both undergraduates and master’s students in our programs. It is his goal to eventually have the majority of these internships offer compensation and/or provide scholarships for our students. The department understands that student’s biggest concerns when choosing a University to attend are the net cost of education and the culture of the program. The department believes that increasing financial assistance opportunities, improving our recruitment and admissions follow-up, and promoting awareness of the Department through marketing and public

relations are all key factors in creating a sense of community. Different voices that can relate to each other need to be represented; being inclusive to everyone is a great way to achieve this. The faculty and staff in the Department put this into practice daily. The Department of City & Metropolitan Planning as stated in the beginning of this report is constantly searching for new ways to improve our current practices, we value the opinions of those who work directly in the Department, those we collaborate with outside of the Department and the students who attend our program.