Ryerson University Graduate Studies

1 YEAR FOLLOW-UP REPORT

Graduate Program:	**Urban Development (MPl)**
Peer Review Team:	Dr. Betsy Donald, Queen's University Dr. Richard Milgrom, University of Manitoba Dr. Fiona Yeudall, Ryerson University
Site Visit:	April 9, 2019
PRT Report:	June 25, 2019
Program Response:	Dec 17, 2019
YSGS Response:	Dec 18, 2019
PPR Approved by Senate:	Mar 3, 2020
1 Year Follow Up Report Due:	Mar 3, 2021 (Submitted February 4, 2021)

As mandated by Ryerson Senate Policy 126: Periodic Program Review of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs[1], within one year of Senate approval of the PPR, a 1 Year Follow-Up Report is to be submitted to the Faculty Dean or Dean of Record and the Vice-Provost and Dean, YSGS, on the progress of the implementation plan and any further recommendations. This follow-up report will be also be reviewed by Programs and Planning Committee, YSGS Council, and finally Senate. The PPR Report to Senate may also include a date(s) for subsequent Follow-up Reports.

What follows are the PRT recommendations, the program responses, YSGS responses, and the implementation plan, including the 1 year follow-up status reports by the program.

The recommendations are categorized as administrative/financial and for simplicity, all of this information is presented in the form of a table.

[1] https://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/senate/policies/pol126.pdf

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	MPl Response	Action Item, Timeline, and Lead	Faculty Response	YSGS Response	Urban Development (MPl) 1 Year Follow Up
1. Given the central nature of the internship to the program, consider full time staffing to develop and co-ordinate internship opportunities and engage with university level experiential learning initiatives.	The program agrees with the PRT's recommendation that the protection and enhancement of the mandatory internship is essential. The internship course is appropriately taught by a sessional instructor currently. However, it is under-resourced as it also needs a staff person to develop and coordinate internship opportunities. As such, the internship course requires both continued support and resourcing; it is a critical differentiating element of the program, and yet is under threat. The MPl program is committed to improving and enhancing the internship course. It is important to note that the Undergraduate program PPR also identifies the need to support undergraduate student placement and experiential learning opportunities. The School sees the opportunity to harness these needs together in the form of requesting support from the FCS Dean's office for a new Student Affairs position that would take leadership on	Submit a budget request to FCS Dean for a student affairs position. GPD to submit the budget request by March 2020	The Dean's Office supports the program response. The Dean's Office understands the School's needs regarding additional staffing to develop and co-ordinate internships. We would like to work with the School's Director and Graduate Program Director to discuss the potential provision of additional staff resources to support students. The Dean's Office acknowledges the need to secure internships and maintain strong sustained relationships with community/industry partners. As such, the Dean's Office provides support for experiential learning opportunities and suggests that the School contact Nadia Bello, Manager, Experiential Learning Strategy to support the School's efforts.	YSGS supports the Program and Faculty responses. YSGS notes that it is currently developing an online hub for experiential learning for graduate studies. This should be released in the Winter 2020 term.	The FCS Dean's Office has provided base funding for a new Student Success Facilitator position. The School is in the process of getting the job description finalized and hopes to have the position filled by Spring 2021. This person will support the GPD in efforts to grow funded experiential learning opportunities (e.g. MITACS, network building with alumni). Progress has already been made on securing additional funded internships (see item #2 below) which the Facilitator will build on and amplify through 2021-2022.

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	placements, internships and other experiential learning for both graduate and undergraduate programs. We will also begin to build new and strengthen relationships with the newly hired Director of Experiential Learning and the University's Career and Co-op Centre to explore experiential learning support and resources.				
2. The University alumni office could work with the program to find ways to encourage SURP alumni working in private planning offices to find paid internships for SURP students as this is a key component of their graduate student experience.	The program agrees with the PRT's recommendation. Alumni and students respond favourably to the internship experience and emphatically would not want it eliminated or replaced with an elective. They also appreciate both the option for self arranged placements as well as the range and diversity of SURP-arranged placements. However, there is widespread dissatisfaction with those placements that are unpaid. Furthermore, it is likely that there will soon be legislative changes that will prohibit unpaid internships and this will significantly affect SURP's ability to arrange placements. The MPl program has continued to	Consult with both the University alumni office and the Ryerson Planning Alumni Association to lay out an action plan; continue to lobby to the OPPI. GPD to implement the action items by May 2020. School Director will lobby OPPI.	The Dean's Office supports the program response. The PRT recommended that the School engage the University alumni office and SURP alumni to help find paid internships. The School, in its response, indicated that the Graduate Program Director will consult with both the University alumni office and the Ryerson Planning Alumni Association by May 2020 to lay out an action plan. Furthermore, the School Director will lobby the OPPI. The Dean's Office reminds the School that we now also have staff support in the Dean's office (Claudia Hughes) to increase	YSGS supports the Program and Faculty responses.	The School and Program have been working with the Alumni Association (RPAA) throughout 2020 in a more formal and coordinated way to advertise, recruit and add paid internships to the School's internal placement roster (which is exclusive to the Graduate Students in our program). In 2020, during COVID, the School was able to ensure a virtual internship placement for every graduate student. We also worked with placement agencies and hosts to begin the transition to offering paid placements. This year, in early 2021, with the continued support of RPAA we are now exclusively posting paid placements on our internal

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	communicate with and directly engage the University alumni office, the SURP alumni network and our professional organization, OPPI, in developing more paid internship opportunities.		alumni engagement. We encourage the School to follow up with Claudia as well.		School placement roster. Students will still be encouraged to self-initiate externally-sourced paid internships if they wish. We are also posting several placements with NGOs (offering honouria or stipends), as well as partnerships with MITACs as these opportunities develop. The School Director and GPD are meeting with OPPI in February and March 2021 to continue the discussions around securing more paid internships through the profession.
3. The University should work with the program to find ways to plan for further space and computer infrastructure needs given the growth of the program and the changing nature of practice in planning.	The program agrees with the PRT's recommendation. Both the PRT and the MPl program have identified the shortage of physical space (for studios and research labs) and the long-term lack of investment in physical and computing infrastructure as the major weaknesses, which are "well below the quality found in most planning programs in Canada" and "failing to meet program needs." The PRT has addressed these issues in their meeting with Provost and VP Academic Benarroch.	Submit a budget request to FCS Dean for studio and computer renovation; Explore shared lab spaces across campus. GPD to submit the budget request by Fall 2020 after consultations with SURP community.	The Dean's Office supports the program response. The PRT raised the issue of the need for space and computer infrastructure improvement. The Dean's Office understands this need as it is applicable to multiple FCS Schools. We propose a meeting with the School's leadership to discuss this further to see what we can do in the short and in the long term.	YSGS supports the Program and Faculty response. Although space allocation is not within its purview, YSGS supports and will continue to advocate for additional space for graduate programs.	Through capital funding from the Dean's Office, our School lab and studio spaces have undergone significant renovation to update and support technology-assisted learning and teaching. Specifically: We have replaced 66% of the computers in our physical computer lab in 2020-21. We worked with CCS to use VPNs to "open" the physical lab to students virtually. We are currently renovating all three of our studio spaces on the

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	Following the discussion, the program is prioritizing a funding request to the FCS Dean for a building renovation focusing on studio and computer lab spaces. The program is currently exploring options to share spaces throughout the university. There exists strong collaborative potential and cross-platform sharing for hands-on "making and building" opportunities across campus; these may be realized more effectively and efficiently through infrastructure integration and program collaboration, e.g., if SURP could move and/or share space with Architecture or FCAD (e.g. Fabrication Lab in FCAD, modelling lab in architecture, Digital Media Experience Lab, GIS labs, etc). The program recognizes that space allocation is a multi-level issue including the school, faculty and university. The program will continue to lobby space expansion and sharing and investment in computing infrastructure in line with the expected growth and success of the MPl program.				3rd floor of the 105 Bond St building. The graduate studio (SBB 306) has received new classroom technology, new furniture and a new sound system. All 3 studios support graduate student learning and we have invested approximately $380,000 in classroom enhancements (with thanks due to the FCS Dean for this important capital investment). During COVID 19 remote learning, the School paid for 1 year access to the Adobe Creative Suite Cloud services for all of our graduate students. Moving forward, and having negotiated this special rate, the software access will be extended through ancillary fees to all students.

The table below shows an additional more general point raised by the visiting team during the review, but which was not part of the formal Recommendations. This point reflects existing and ongoing program improvements which have been further addressed with specific strategies and outcomes.

External Reviewer's Comments	Progress to date
Continue to bring equity, diversity and inclusion content into the curriculum.	The School has established an Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Systemic Racism Working Group which collaborates with the RPGSA student leaders and the graduate students' EDI Committee on strategies for a more equitable, diverse and inclusive SURP community. These include (for example, to date) the establishment of a Black Planners' Scholarship, a Speakers' Series featuring BIPOC planners and community leaders, and outreach and engagement to BIPOC students as part of the ***RUaPlanner*** program. Specifically, the School's ongoing collaboration with ***RUaPlanner*** has our graduate students partnering with ***Urban Minds*** (a community based organization) on their high-school student focused 1UP event in March 2021 geared toward engaging a wider range of students, including members of BIPOC communities, and to consider planning a future activity (https://www.1uptoronto.org). We have jointly submitted a MITACs summer internship application for one of our graduate students if funded. This internship focused on research on best practices to engage BIPOC youth in city building practices and civic engagement efforts. Finally, the School has recently hired and welcomed Prof. Summer Sutton, an Indigenous (tenure-track) faculty member who brings Indigenous perspectives into our curriculum. We are currently engaged in a search for a new faculty member working in the area of Anti-Black Racism and planning law.

Summary Statement/Conclusion:

The School and the Program are grateful to the external reviewers and colleagues for a thorough, thoughtful and open assessment of the strengths and challenges of the Urban Development graduate program. The PRT recommendations and our program responses reflect both the proactive nature of

planning and our community-centred research and practice, as well as the evolving challenges of contemporary planning praxis. We are particularly grateful for the support of the FCS Dean in meeting the capital investment needs of the Program and the School—investments that will ensure contemporary skills development and ongoing community-engaged experiential learning for our students. Overall, we are pleased to report these positive developments in the evolution of the program.

Respectfully submitted,



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