



American Planning Association  
**Oklahoma Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

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December 1, 2011

**AICP Commission**

**RE: Tenured Faculty Membership Program**

Ms. Breinich and Members of the AICP Commission:

The Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Planning Association has voted and authorized me, as OKAPA President, to voice a Chapter position and give input to the proposed AICP bylaw Amendment - Tenured Faculty Membership Program.

The Oklahoma Chapter opposes the proposed AICP Bylaw Amendment - Tenured Faculty Membership Program. We feel this proposal dilutes the AICP credentials. Should planning educators wish to be AICP certified, they should be required to have earned their AICP accreditation the same as all professional planners. Planning educators should prove they are worthy resources for educating students in the planning profession. AICP should ensure that the educators can and do meet the same expectations as those they teach.

Other related professions do not practice this. Tenure requirements are of course grueling for faculty to meet but they are very different than what is required for AICP. Serving as a planning faculty member should allow the opportunity for that member to sit for the exam, not be exempt from it. Requiring academics to take the exam to earn AICP accreditation is an important element for the integrity of this certification.

We echo the sentiments of many fellow AICP members who urge you to vote "no" on the proposed AICP bylaw change that would allow planning faculty who gain tenure at planning schools accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board to get AICP certification without taking the AICP test. This idea is a giant step in the wrong direction for our organization which has struggled hard to define, maintain, and promote professional credibility. The granting of tenure has nothing to do with capacity for practice - including ethical conduct.

Please do not facilitate a giant step backwards for the planning profession by supporting this dilution of AICP standards. Please reject the Tenured Faculty Membership Program.

Respectfully,

Nancy S. McNayr, AICP  
President, Oklahoma Chapter of the American Planning Association