



AICP Commission  
205 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1200  
Chicago, IL 60601

***RE: Tenured Faculty Membership Program***

To the AICP Commissioners:

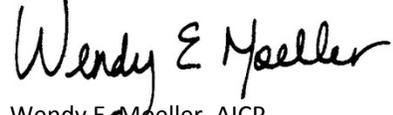
I am providing this response to the proposed Tenured Faculty Membership Program on behalf of the APA-Ohio Board of Trustees as the Chapter President. Our board members have had an opportunity to review the proposed program and are pleased that that AICP Commission is attempting to identify ways to encourage participation by planning faculty in both APA and AICP. Ohio has the benefit of being one of the few states that has multiple schools and programs that are accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board as well as numerous planning faculty members who are very involved in both our chapter and national APA activities.

While our chapter would support programs that encourage AICP certification and participation for planning faculty, we do not support the proposed concept of waiving the AICP exam for tenured faculty. After review of information made available to the chapters as part of the discussion on this program and on-going dialogue amongst the APA-Ohio board members, we have come to the general consensus that accepting tenured faculty into the AICP without the faculty member taking the exam would be a detriment to the purpose of AICP. Such purpose, as stated in the definition of AICP, extends beyond planning education and serves as a measure of an AICP member's broader understanding of both **planning education** and the **standards of planning practice**. We believe there are too many variables in the tenure process to ensure that it is equal to or surpasses the need to pass the AICP exam in the traditional manner that every other AICP member has to undertake.

Our board recognizes that tenured professors are valued members of our profession that work hard to achieve tenure while simultaneously educating our future planners. Our understanding is that AICP is evaluating this approach because, according to the APA website, "research and publication are expected and are key criteria for the grant of tenure." It is also our understanding that AICP believes that the actual tenure review is so extensive as to essentially replace the need for the AICP exam. The APA-Ohio board believes that granting AICP status without the exam is a slippery slope if based on these reasons. First, research and publication may be expected of tenured faculty but there are numerous members and non-members of APA who have undertaken extensive research and published many practical guides to planning without themselves being planning faculty. These non-faculty planners are subject to the same rules and requirements of every other AICP member to come before us requiring a demonstration of adequate planning education and planning practice prior to even sitting for the AICP exam. Second, we have found that the tenure review for planning faculty can vary widely based on the program and the university to the point that it would be impossible to assume that the process is so rigorous in all instances as to circumvent the need to qualify and pass the AICP exam. Finally, we believe that one of the strengths of the AICP certification process is that everyone is subject to the same requirements of qualifying and passing the exam prior to earning the credentials, thus establishing a baseline of what it means to be AICP. By approving the Tenured Faculty Membership Program, the AICP Commission would essentially be defining two separate classes of membership, those members who met all of the AICP standardized qualifications to sit for the exam and then passed such exam, and those who did not have to sit for the exam because they were approved as tenured faculty under conditions the commission has no control over and which varies greatly from university to university with no clear definition if such process would truly equate to an alternative to the AICP exam.

In providing these comments, we hope that the AICP Commission will consider the impact of exempting any group of planners, not just faculty, from taking the exam in order to earn the AICP credentials and would in turn, look into alternative methods for engaging our planning faculty in APA and AICP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy E. Moeller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy E. Moeller, AICP  
APA-Ohio Chapter President