Learning Outcomes Data for the Senate Committee on Instructional Program Priorities

Program: Pre-planning Certificate in Metropolitan Planning

Department: Geography

Number of students enrolled in the program in Fall, 2011: 1 or 2

Faculty member completing template: Robin Datel, Chair (Date: January 2012)

On the books, the Geography Department still offers two multidisciplinary certificates, one of which is in Metropolitan Planning. As the years have gone by, demand for these certificates has approached zero, due to a variety of factors. The certificates were created in part to complement what was at the time a general liberal arts geography degree, the certificate providing a credential in a more career-oriented subject. Geography has evolved significantly since then, and our major now has four concentrations and significantly increased training in technical skills, leading to various careers. One of these concentrations is Metropolitan Area Planning. We have kept the certificates on the books, rather than just remove them, because we have discussed the possibility of wanting to create heavily revised certificates in the future. A couple of years ago, there was interest from off-campus professionals in urban planning, urban design, and real estate development in creating a master’s program in urban planning; discussions led by Mike Lee involved consideration of moving toward a graduate program by starting with a certificate. While the idea did not come to fruition, it did cause us to keep the existing Metro Planning certificate as an indicator of our established credential in this area and as a place-holder. I know of one Environmental Studies major currently completing this certificate, but very few resources are being devoted to it. Learning Outcomes have not been created or assessed for it.