DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PLANNING
Faculty of Architecture and Planning
5410 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2X4

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Meredith Davis
2009-2010 President
CAPS-ACÉAU
meredith@caps-aceau.ca

Re: Letter of Intent for CAPS-ACÉAU 2011

Dear Meredith,

It is with immense pleasure that we, the students of Dalhousie University School of Planning, submit our proposal to host the CAPS-ACÉAU 2011 Conference in Halifax. We have an enthusiastic group of graduate and undergraduate students devoted to organizing an incredible event, an established network of academic and community partners, and a unique city that we look forward to sharing with our fellow planning students from across Canada.

The student organizing committee is excited to have selected PLANNING BEYOND... for our proposed conference theme. It is our intention to focus on the following topics:

- Planning beyond the traditional practitioner: *interdisciplinary* planning
- Planning beyond the norm: *innovative* planning
- Planning beyond the Canadian border: *international* planning

As the boundaries of traditional planning practice continue to be challenged, *Planning Beyond...* offers current planning students the opportunity to explore ‘non-traditional’ career opportunities in planning that include international and innovative planning organizations. Students and new graduates are finding work in diverse fields and collaborating with a variety of professions, from architecture to environmental science, and heritage to engineering. Our conference can incorporate the work of interdisciplinary firms, health care practitioners, social justice organizations, international development agencies, and environmental consultants.

A committee representing both undergraduate and graduate students has come together to organize the 2011 conference. The executive of the committee are Breanne Harder, President; Neil Bailey and Lynn Roxburgh, Co-Vice Presidents; James Haney, Treasurer; and Stephanie Chai, Secretary.

The Dalhousie School of Planning is prepared to bring a range of resources to the organization of the CAPS-ACÉAU conference. The School has a substantial student body from which to draw for organizational and logistical support. With approximately 140 undergraduate and 40
graduate students, there is a breadth of experience and enthusiasm from which to draw. Our proposal has the full support of both undergraduate and graduate planning student organizations on campus.

Each year, students from the School of Planning, together with government and community partners, host a conference during the winter term. The free conference aims to bring together planning students, faculty, professionals, community groups and citizens to discuss and debate current topics in planning. Last year’s budget totalled close to $17,000, with funds entirely contributed by local businesses, government agencies, and faculty and student organizations. With an established network and strong local support at our disposal, coupled with the revenue from registrations, the committee is confident that the financial resources are available to successfully host the CAPS-ACÉAU conference. If we are selected to be the host school next year, this effort and network will be entirely devoted to the CAPS-ACÉAU conference.

The Dalhousie University School of Planning offers Atlantic Canada’s only accredited planning program. Focused on understanding urban and environmental systems, and the relationships between them, the School of Planning offers a professional planning education to students from Canada, the United States and abroad. The work of the School is informed by key principles that reflect our shared commitment to our work and the approaches that we take. The School’s approach is community-centred, design-based, and focused particularly on the settlements of Atlantic Canada.

The Dalhousie School of Planning is ideally located downtown for conference participants to experience Halifax. The academic, cultural and economic centre of Atlantic Canada, Halifax enjoys an unsurpassed natural setting on the Atlantic coast. With a population of 350,000 and growing, Halifax Regional Municipality is a vibrant commercial and cultural centre. A myriad of restaurants, pubs, and coffee shops are within the immediate vicinity of the School, allowing conference attendees to experience the city’s unique culture.

Inspired by the opportunities and possibilities of our profession, we feel that Planning Beyond... can bring together planning students from across the country to explore innovative solutions for current and future challenges, expand their knowledge of planning issues, and allow the opportunity to collaborate with other students, professional planners, and academics. We are incredibly excited for the opportunity to be considered to host the CAPS-ACÉAU conference in 2011 and are eager to bring Canada’s student planners to Dalhousie!

Thank you for considering our proposal, and we look forward to seeing you in Halifax!

Sincerely,

Breanne Harder Neil Bailey Lynn Roxburgh James Haney Stephanie Chai
President Vice-President Vice-President Treasurer Secretary

Halifax CAPS-ACÉAU Organizing Committee, Dalhousie University School of Planning
2 February, 2010

Meredith Davis,
2009-10 President, CAPS-ACEAU

Dear Meredith:

I am delighted to be writing in support of the Dalhousie planning students' proposal for next year's CAPS conference. As you know, there are both undergraduate and graduate planning students in this School, and both groups are keenly involved in this proposal.

The proposed title of the conference is, "Planning beyond .........." which seems to open a world of possibilities. I am already having ideas and getting excited.

Let me tell you about a few other aspects of the proposal which add promise for the likely success of next year's conference (if the bid is successful):
- this is a close-knit School where students and faculty work hard to give every support to each other's ideas and activities;
- Halifax is a hospitable city;
- Halifax is an fascinating city to visit, whatever your passion (planning, Canadian history, marine and coastal issues, or simply the beautiful maritime landscape);
- Each year in the winter semester, the School puts on a conference, in conjunction with local planners. We are already discussing ways to combine the two conferences to the advantage of both.

I really hope that the Dalhousie students' proposal is successful, and I look forward to welcoming planning students from across the country next year. Be assured that the School will do everything we can to help make the CAPS conference a success and to make everyone's visit enjoyable and memorable.

Sincerely,

Susan Guppy
Director, School of Planning
2 February 2010

Meredith Davis, University of Guelph
President, CAPS-ACEAU 2010
meredith@caps-aceau.ca

Re: Letter of support / Dalhousie University bid for CAPS 2011

Dear Ms. Davis:

I would like to express my support for the proposal to host the annual CAPS-ACEAU Conference in Halifax in 2011, made by Dalhousie University graduate planning students. Our School of Planning offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees in planning, with a student body of 135 undergraduates (Bachelor of Community Design) and 40+ graduates (MPlan).

The proposed theme for 2011 is “Planning Beyond…”, a forward thinking and inspiring theme that brings focus to the interdisciplinary, international and innovative aspect of planning. We are excited about this theme, which reflects well the opportunities for planning education in Halifax — our school is in a design-oriented faculty with architecture students, located on a downtown campus shared with engineering students, and benefits from the institutional support of a major research university that has faculties of management, arts and social sciences, health professions, and law, among others.

For many years, our planning students have organized and run a conference each winter, bringing national and international speakers to Atlantic Canada and building bridges to the profession. For 2011, they plan to build on this experience and momentum, increasing its scope to encompass the larger audience offered by the annual CAPS-ACEAU conference.

I have met with the student organizers and am impressed with their sense of the responsibilities and organizational skills required to successfully host a conference of this scale. While they have primarily focused their efforts on developing the conference theme, they have also already begun to plan logistical matters such as venue, budgets, sponsorship and communications. I feel confident in their planning skills and their follow-through.

Dalhousie’s Faculty of Architecture and Planning is a great venue for an intellectually stimulating, sociable and friendly conference. We know this maritime city has its own charms and we have plenty of experience hosting national conferences — welcoming CAPS in 2003 and the ACSA NE Regional conference (Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture) in 1998.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Christine Macy
Dean, Faculty of Architecture and Planning