

Charles Connerly
October 15, 2011

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address you today. It gives me great pleasure to succeed Cheryl Contant and to precede June Thomas in this position—it certainly gives me appreciation for the value of positive externalities and their radiant leadership that will hopefully make me look good as well.

I have just a few minutes to outline my ten point agenda, but I would like to thank the Review and Appraisal Committee who have contributed significantly to the formulation of this presidential agenda: Victoria Basolo, Tim Chapin, Annette Kim, Kristin Larsen, Kirk McClure, Mai Nguyen, Gerardo Sandoval, David Sloane, June Thomas, and Shannon Van Zandt.

First,

1. I would like to continue the initiatives of my predecessors, especially Cheryl Contant. This includes a focus on strengthening ACSP's international connections, increasing the diversity of planning faculty and students, inventorying and exploring opportunities for undergraduate education, increasing engagement of younger scholars in ACSP, and developing a five year financial plan that can be regularly updated.

2. It is very clear that planning practice and planning schools are disproportionately populated by white planners. We need to work very hard to continue to support the work of the Planners of Color Interest Group, the Diversity Task Force, and the new special committee on diversity to enrich the mix of planners and planning academics.

3. We need to enrich the intellectual vitality of our annual conference. While the annual conference continues to thrive as a place for the exchange of ideas, much concern has been expressed to me in the last year on the need for enhancing the intellectual vitality of the annual conference. Efforts, such as the creation of a new crosscutting track, have already begun in this direction, but further work is needed, including attention to assuring the quality of papers presented at the conference.

4. We need to restore our annual conference to a money making enterprise. For many years, the primary way we earned revenue and paid our bills was through the annual conference. Efforts to increase sponsorships as well as to look for other revenue enhancements are needed.

5. We need to look very carefully at how our master's graduates are doing in their job searches. We know the job market for planners is much tougher than it was. We need to think carefully about what we can do to better prepare our students for a rough job market as well as to think creatively about the types of work that planners can succeed in.

6. We need to review how we are doing as leaders in the scholarship of engagement. Attention was called to this by the Checkoway Report in 1997 and exciting national leadership in this area is coming out of the planning program at the University of Oregon. I know from personal experience there is a potentially great appetite on campuses for planning school leadership in this area, but know there are significant challenges, especially from those who believe that community engagement and excellent scholarship are incompatible. As planners, we know better.

7. With new accreditation criteria headed our way for our consideration as well as a growing movement toward student learning outcomes, planning schools need all the help they can get in preparing for these changes. ACSP needs to be providing this kind of assistance.

8. Distance learning remains a growing phenomenon and we need to think carefully and systematically about how we adapt planning education to increased use of telecommunications technologies while maintaining high standards. There is at least one planning school that is currently developing a distant master's degree and economic pressures will assure that there will be others.

9. And while I probably won't make many friends this way, we need to look carefully at our awards. Do we have too many awards? Do we have duplicative awards? Do we have

awards whose purpose is unclear? Do we have awards whose criteria are unclear or which need revising? This will be controversial because a number of our awards are named for former colleagues to whom we feel very close. But as people of my generation and earlier retire, will these awards have the same clear purpose to succeeding generations? I think we need to sort this out soon or risk the loss of awards as the "keepers of the flame" retire.

10. We need your help. We have an ambitious agenda and therefore the opportunity to affect significant change. But we need your willingness to participate in serving on committees and task forces and in other ways. Please send me your name and interest in what I have just said to charles-connerly@uiowa.edu

Thank you very much—I look forward to working with you all in the next two years.