




UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
GREEN BAY

Date: 6 February 2017
To: John Stoll, Chair, Urban and Regional Studies
From: Greg Davis, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs 
Re: Provost's Recommendations on Urban and Regional Studies Program Review

Note: Due to significant turnover in the Provost's office as well as significant budgetary and organizational challenges, this memo was delayed. It responds to the Program Review submitted by Urban and Regional Studies in 2014, and represents an effort to correct a significant oversight.

The Urban and Regional Studies faculty have long been vital members of our campus community. The work that the faculty members have done has extended our University's reach into the local community and around the world. Many of the URS faculty members also are recognized as top scholars in their fields. Most importantly, several of the URS graduates have gone onto significant careers. However, it is clear that URS is at a crossroads, and its future is likely dependent on re-imagining its mission, goals, and curriculum.

Program Strengths:

- Scholarship is very strong among some members of URS.
- URS has a strong commitment to internationalizing the curriculum and providing international experiences for students.
- URS has had major influences on regional planning and state policy development.

Needs and Suggestions for Improvement:

- Although it is heartening that the faculty members have decided to re-examine their student learning outcomes and assessment plan, both still need work, particularly the student learning outcomes. Also, it is unclear how the program faculty members use assessment results in improving the program.
- I suggest that it may be time to re-envision the program, its mission and goals, and the course array. Although parts of the argument about lower level course array and online courses presented in the Self Study make some sense, the problems might be more fundamental.