March 6, 2015

Dr. Janusz Kozinski
Dean
Lassonde School of Engineering
150B Atkinson Building
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

Dear Dr. Kozinski:

Re: Graduate-level Course offering to Civil Engineering Department

I provide this Letter of Support for graduate courses to be offered by the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies to graduate students of the Civil Engineering Department, and other Lassonde School of Engineering graduate students in accordance with their degree requirements.

From the Civil Engineering New Program Brief (MASc and PhD) it is evident that the profession deals with all aspects of the built and natural environment, including but not limited to urban development and urban population expansion, pressures on natural resources, increasing demands on infrastructure, water use and reclamation, and increasing energy consumption and transportation loads. Combined with the effects of the harsh environmental conditions on structures and soils, and the need to control the consequences of man-made activities and natural hazards, the scope of the civil engineering profession has been evolving rapidly to be able to deal with the emerging challenges that are closely linked to climate, environment, economics, geography, humanities and administrative challenges.

It is critical for engineering students to gain a sound understanding of the ways in which the fields of engineering and professional studies interact. It is with pleasure to see the strong potential of partnership between the two Faculties in the area of geography, hydrology, climate, and economics. In addition to the proposed civil engineering core courses, the Department of Civil Engineering has identified seven existing graduate courses that are offered by our Faculty, which could be of potential interest to MASc and PhD students in Civil Engineering. These courses are as follows:
• GS/GEOG 5050 GIS and Spatial Analysis
• GS/GEOG 5695 Fluvial Geomorphology
• GS/GEOG 5602 Climatology of High Altitudes
• GS/GEOG 5607 Ecological Climatology
• GS/GEOG 5610 Biogeochemistry of Stream Ecosystems
• GS/GEOG 5630 Physical Hydrology and Water Resources
• GS/GEOG 5645 Dynamics of Snow and Ice

With regard to the course’s impact on our Faculty resources, I am happy to see that an agreement has been reached between the Lassonde School of Engineering and Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies stipulating that the funds necessary to deliver the course shall be provided by the Lassonde School of Engineering, according to the principles of service course delivery and the upcoming new Shared Accountability & Resource Planning (SHARP) budget system. In order to minimize the impact on faculty resources, the individual course instructors may deliver multiple learning modules if and when required thus, mitigating the total number of course instructors.

As outlined in the New Program Brief, all necessary consultations have been carried out with the relevant York University library personnel, and arrangements shall be made to carry the relevant course materials at the Lassonde School of Engineering’s library.

We believe that the above courses represent a remarkable effort to encourage inter-faculty synergy, whereby the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies will be able to assist, through the provision of knowledge and expertise, with the Lassonde School of Engineering’s vision of providing an innovative and interdisciplinary engineering education to its students. We share this vision and we enthusiastically support the effort by making available to Lassonde Students the courses listed above.

Should you have any questions or require any clarification, please feel free to contact Vice-Dean Kim Michasiw, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies at michasiw@yorku.ca or Professor Jit Sharma, Chair Civil Engineering Department, Lassonde School of Engineering at jit.sharma@lassonde.yorku.ca.

Sincerely,

Martin Singer
Founding Dean