Memorandum

To: Rebecca Pillai Riddell, Chair, Senate APPRC
From: Rhonda Lenton, Provost
Date: September 11, 2015

Subject: Proposal for Master of Real Estate and Infrastructure

I am writing to follow up on my initial letter of May 8, 2015 (attached) with regard to the Schulich School of Business proposal to establish a Master of Real Estate and Infrastructure (MREI). I now have in hand the external reviewers’ report - which I am pleased to note is highly positive with regard to the program’s design and distinctiveness - and SSB’s response.

As I indicated in my earlier communication, the proposal is consistent with institutional priorities around expansion of graduate programming. As described in the proposal, this Masters program will build on the success of the concentration in Real Property Development in the MBA, which was created in 1992 and recast to include infrastructure 2009. The reviewers found this to be a logical progression for the program and one which will respond effectively to the needs of the industry for a more specialized degree in this area. They also found its curriculum, which draws upon aspects of urban planning, real estate, and infrastructure in a cross-disciplinary approach, and integrates theory and skills development, to be distinctive and appropriate.

With regard to resources, the reviewers were not able to comment in detail about the program’s financial viability, but noted a strong commitment from the School and the Dean to provide appropriate resources. They urged that the School engage in succession planning for this area, and that at least one academically qualified research active faculty member be added to the complement to ensure research credibility of the program and to help cover teaching of new courses. The reviewers also suggested increased interaction with faculty from related areas of the university, e.g., urban studies, urban economics, in order to ensure that resources are not duplicated across programs, including the possibility that those faculty might teach relevant courses in the program. Dean Horvath has indicated that real estate is a priority hiring area for the School, and I am pleased to confirm that Schulich has been authorized to undertake a search for a tenure stream faculty member in the area of real estate and infrastructure during the 2015-2016 academic year, as well as the completion of a CLA
appointment to which he refers (effective September 2015). The Dean also reports that the School will draw on professionals from the field to teach in the program, and that discussions will be undertaken with other areas of the university. I am satisfied that sufficient resources will be in place to support this program.

I am pleased to record my support for this proposal.

Cc: Dean D. Horvath
    VP Academic A. Pitt
    ASCP