We are very pleased by the enthusiasm with which the consultants endorsed our proposed masters program in real estate and infrastructure. Comments such as “the proposed curriculum represents a reimagining of real estate” and “the curriculum is designed to be forward looking by using a cross-disciplinary platform of integrating various real estate disciplines” illustrate reviewers’ opinions on the innovativeness and relevance of our proposed program.

In their report, the consultants commented on several broad areas:

**Admission requirements.** The consultants questioned the 2-5 year work experience, noting that just two years experience is required by most similar programs. Of course, two years is our normal minimum as well. However, we have found in the existing real estate specialization in our MBA (on which the MREI proposal is based) that more work experience leads to students receiving more benefit from their study. Hence, the program encourages work experience that goes beyond the minimum of two years. In addition, since 2-5 years of relevant full time work experience are preferred rather than required, the program is able to admit unusually strong candidates who may have a bit less than 2 years of experience. The supplementary application form and the candidate’s letters of recommendation will assist the program in making such decisions.

**Faculty and Research.** The Schulich School is committed to engaging the necessary teaching staff to enable us to deliver each program effectively. Many of the teaching staff come from the real estate and infrastructure industries with substantial hands-on expertise and experience in dealing with the multiple diverse aspects of real property and infrastructure development and management.

Research faculty also are needed to support the program, especially at the senior level. To this end, Schulich’s Operating Committee has prioritized the MREI program for a tenure stream position. Hopefully, this position can be filled within the coming academic year. In addition, the program is in the process of filling a new CLA position. The Schulich Dean currently is negotiating a contract with a strong candidate. These two additional faculty members would significantly raise the program’s teaching capability and its research profile as well as ensuring the program’s sustainability.
The reviewers suggest that there are colleagues in other faculties of York University who are not currently involved in the MREI but who may potentially be available to support the program. The MREI Program Director is in the process of identifying those colleagues and gauging their interest. Their availability, of course, will depend on their willingness to cooperate as well as on the willingness of their home faculties to release them to teach some proportion of their course load in the MREI.

**Courses.** The proposed program consists of both (1) newly-designed courses and (2) existing courses that are being transferred from the existing MBA specialization in Real Estate and Infrastructure. Syllabi for the existing courses are available, while extended course descriptions for new courses are included in the program documentation. The syllabi for any new courses will, of course, be subjected to extensive review within the School as well as by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the York University Senate. At Schulich, all courses are subject to a continuous development process. Syllabi are not fixed, but are modified regularly to improve effectiveness and to incorporate relevant new material and new experiences.

**Electronic resources.** The consultants have recommended a number of electronic resources that are not presently available within the School. Schulich will undertake to acquire additional resources that will assist the teaching, learning, and research objectives of the MREI program.

**Conclusion.** We greatly appreciate the time and energy that the consultants donated to reviewing our proposed new degree program and for providing us with a detailed and thorough report. We will continue our search for new faculty to join and strengthen the MREI program in teaching, research, and experiential learning experiences for the students. We have learned through our experience with the MBA Real Estate and Infrastructure concentration that the program is needed in the Canadian environment. The reviewers observe that we have “a clear and focused mission and vision.” We thank the reviewers for endorsing our proposal.

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20 July 2015