

August 24, 2010

Jane Amidon, Associate Professor and Head
Landscape Architecture Section
Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture
The Ohio State University
275 West Woodruff Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Professor Amidon:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its August 6-7, 2010 meeting granted accreditation for a six (6) year period to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at the Ohio State University, subject to review of annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2016. Accordingly, the MLA program is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2016.

In making its decision, the LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the visiting team report, the institution's response to the team report, and discussions with team members and program faculty.

Enclosed is a copy of the final visiting team report and a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in annual reports) and suggestions for improvement. This list was developed by LAAB from the materials reviewed during the meeting.

On behalf of the visiting team, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to them by the faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

Richard Hawks, FASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. E. Gordon Gee, President

**Ohio State University
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
August 6-7, 2010**

Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Prepare a plan that clarifies and supports the strategic direction of the Landscape Architecture Section, guides student scholarly exploration, identifies key complimentary resources within the broader university, and provides avenues of engagement for all members of the program faculty (Standard 1).
2. Develop and document a strategy for advising students in preparation for their thesis work that is coordinated with the scholastic interests of individual faculty and the strategic direction(s) of the Landscape Architecture Section as a whole (Standard 3).
3. Develop a plan for linking resources allocated to community and international outreach with the shared and overarching strategic direction of the MLA program and the research/scholarly interests of its individual faculty (Standard 8).

Suggestions for Improvements

1. Investigate opportunities to reduce, or remove budgetary disincentives and increase the range of exploration and collaboration available to MLA students across the university (Standard 2).
2. Remaining cognizant of the need to strengthen community among the landscape architecture faculty, the Section and School Director might consider measures to invite greater faculty participation in decision-making (Standard 2).
3. Undertake team building efforts among all members of the faculty to promote participation in program activities, to strengthen collegiality, and to ensure equitable distribution of the responsibilities necessary to carry out the objectives of the MLA program (Standard 4).
4. Engage the faculty in developing a faculty hiring plan, and documenting a transparent and participatory search process, that is coordinated with strategic directions of the School and Section and aimed at enhancing a compatible diversity of academic perspectives (Standard 4).
5. Continue to reach out to private practitioners throughout the region to strengthen the ties between the academic and design communities (Standard 7).