August 17, 2015

Michael Holmes, ASLA
Landscape Architecture Program Director
Landscape Architecture Program – 385 AGH
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078

Dear Mr. Holmes:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 17-18, 2015 meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the first professional BLA degree at Oklahoma State University. This status is 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, 2021. Accordingly, the BLA program is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2021.

In making its decision, 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 list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in annual reports) and suggestions for improvement (to be responded to in annual reports). 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,

Stephanie Rolley, FASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Burns Hargis, President
    Janet Cole, PhD, Department Head

**Oklahoma State University
BLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 17-18, 2015**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

<u>Recommendations Affecting Accreditation</u>

1. Create and implement a formal, regular process to review progress towards accomplishing program goals and objectives. This process should be documented and include methods to update the goals and objectives based on the review (Standard 1).
2. In concert with the recommendation 1, Standard 1, continue the review of the curriculum that meets the mission and objectives of the Program (Standard 3).

<u>Suggestions for Improvements</u>

1. Improve its public presence by updating its website to include information about faculty and the Program Mission and Objectives (Standard 1).
2. The department and the college should proceed with plans to appoint a new permanent department head and connect that person's vision of the mission and leadership of the department with those of the BLA Program (Standard 2).
3. The administration and the faculty should assess the summer session leadership and program advocacy needs of the landscape architecture program and develop a mechanism for appropriate summer coordinating support (Standard 2).
4. Develop strategies for meeting the standard expectation of 5 FTE faculty for a single programs (Standard 2).
5. Establish a standard for course syllabi, across the curriculum, that includes explicit objectives, content, evaluation rubric and work schedule (Standard 3).
6. Strive to bring larger-scale hand-drawn graphics to a more professional level (Standard 4).
7. Incorporate basic design concepts and principals in all design courses (Standard 4).
8. Continue to evaluate the computer graphic and modeling software programs which are used in the profession and incorporate them into the program where possible (Standard 4).
9. Integrate the use of quick study models into the design process (Standard 4).
10. The program should consider formalizing the senior exit interview (Standard 4).
11. Align teaching assignments with the experiences, expectations and research interest of the faculty to the extent possible (Standard 5).
12. Develop a program newsletter as a way to stay in touch with the alumni, practitioners, and friends of the program, and to inform those of the programs activities, events and successes of the program (Standard 6).
13. The program should consider adding student representation on the LAPAC (Standard 6).
14. The level and availability of IT support in Ag North should be evaluated in order to increase reliability of IT resources in that facility (Standard 7).