August 24, 2010

Professor Mark Boyer, ASLA, Interim Department Head
Department of Landscape Architecture
MEMH 230
1 University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72707

Dear Professor Boyer:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its August 6-7, 2010 meeting granted accreditation for six years to the course of study leading to the first professional BLA degree at the University of Arkansas, 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 BLA 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. Please note that the LAAB changed the assessment of Standard 3 to met and the recommendations following it to suggestions.

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. G. David Gearhart, Chancellor
    Visiting Team

Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Reconsider the program mission statement and the goals and strategies to include more explicit language as to what graduates are expected to be able to do (measurable learning outcomes) Standard 1).
2. Resolve the permanent leadership for the Landscape Architecture program and fill in at least one additional faculty line to ease instructional workloads (Standard 2).
3. Review the IT equipment situation in Memorial Hall and provide equal access to computer facilities in Vol Walker Hall for landscape architecture students (Standard 9).

Suggestions for Improvement
1. Create or refine the student learning outcomes for the BLA courses, especially the final capstone project, and develop measures to assess outcomes (Standard 1).
2. Increase efforts to achieve progress in meeting the School's diversity strategic goal (Standard 2).
3. Pursue the approval of the revised Tenure and Promotion Guidelines with the Provost (Standard 2).
4. Increase coverage of digital tools to better prepare students to meet entry level professional expectations (Standard 3).
5. Establish curricular ties with allied disciplines, especially architecture (Standard 3).
6. Review the current curriculum for course loads and sequences to provide the students opportunity to take professional electives earlier in the curriculum (Standard 3).
7. Provide faculty the opportunity to offer courses related to their scholarship and creative interest (Standard 3).
8. Increase opportunities for adjunct faculty to participate in curriculum development and evaluations (Standard 4).
9. Establish a program advisory committee to keep faculty and students apprised of changing trends in practice (Standard 6).
10. Expand the pool of adjuncts, lecturers and critics to include disciplines other than landscape architecture, for example engineers, architects, fine arts, planners and scientists (Standard 7).
11. Overtly embrace collaboration with established design professionals outside landscape architecture (Standard 7).
12. Establish ways to engage students in the Community Design Center projects to perhaps include establishing elective studios with the Center (Standard 8).
13. Establish ways to engage students in community-based projects directly involving public agencies (Standard 8).
14. Establish ways to support and engage students more directly in the use of the Garvan Woodland Gardens (Standard 8).
15. Initiate an update of the IT equipment and services for the landscape architecture program, including student workstation access to school's input and output devices (Standard 9).
16. Pursue funding to accomplish the planned renovation of Vol Walker Hall and engage the landscape architecture program in the planning process for the renovation and addition (Standard 9).