



*Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture*

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Ron Leighton  
Accreditation Manager

August 17, 2011

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Jody Rosenblatt Naderi, ASLA  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Landscape Architecture  
College of Architecture and Planning  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306

Dear Professor Naderi:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its August 1-2, 2011 meeting granted accreditation to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at Ball 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 December 31, 2016. Accordingly, the MLA program is next scheduled for a review during the fall 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 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. Please note that regarding Recommendation 1 that it is up to the institution to decide if foundation courses are taught at the undergraduate or graduate level.

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,

Whitney Talcott, FASLA  
LAAB Chair

**Ball State University  
MLA Program  
LAAB Meeting  
August 1-2, 2011**

**Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

1. Continue to define and evaluate the learning goals and factors that differentiate the first professional degree at the master's level (Standard 3).

**Suggestions for Improvement:**

1. Develop strategies, and appropriate tactics for achieving them, to increase ethnic diversity in the MLA program (Standard 2).
2. Develop a sustainable plan for financial support for faculty development (Standard 2)
3. Develop comprehensive and consistent tools for assessing measureable outcomes in the Department's educational mission (Standard 3).
4. Establish procedures for significantly increasing student participation in the faculty evaluation process (Standard 5).