

August 24, 2010

Professor Peter L. Osler, ASLA, Director
Program of Landscape Architecture
College of Architecture
S.R. Crown Hall
Illinois Institute of Technology
3360 South State Street
Chicago, IL 60616

Dear Professor Osler:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its August 6-7, 2010 meeting granted initial accreditation for a six (6) year period to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at the Illinois Institute of Technology. This status is subject to review of a satisfactory progress report to be submitted by July 1, 2013, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Richard Hawks, FASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: John L. Anderson, President
Visiting Team

Illinois Institute of Technology

MLA Program

LAAB Meeting

August 6-7, 2010

Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Develop and implement methods for systematic program and course evaluation and assessment (Standard 1).
2. Develop an updated long-range plan to guide program growth and development (Standard 1).
3. Promote a greater critical mass and continuity in the core faculty to promote greater curricular continuity and stability (Standard 2).
4. Develop and implement strategies to promote a diversity in the faculty more in line with the program's urban context (Standard 2).
5. Communicate curricular structure, content and course learning objectives to part time instructors to ensure curricular continuity (Standard 3).
6. Review the construction materials and methods component of the curriculum to ensure that all students are adequately prepared to deal with more advanced theory and practice in this area (Standard 3).

Suggestions for Improvement:

1. Develop special mechanisms to ensure adequate orientation of new and existing faculty to the goals and objectives of the program (Standard 1).
2. Ensure that the program director has the necessary autonomy and authority to be effective (Standard 2).
3. Seek more formal arrangements with the Chicago Botanical Garden to ensure continuity of the existing collaboration (Standard 3).
4. Efforts should be made to more consistently reinforce aspects of technical course work in advanced studios (Standard 5).
5. Develop an alumni tracking system to make sure that the existing strong connection with alumni is maintained as the group grows over time (Standard 6).
6. Continue efforts to form an advisory board and develop a structure to ensure productive input (Standard 6).
7. Provide part-time instructors with a more secure office space that functions as a home base and encourage instructor interaction (Standard 9).
8. A more formalized process needs to be put in place to ensure that the program continues to have appropriate library acquisitions (Standard 9).