



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

---

Ron Leighton  
Accreditation Manager

March 13, 2012

Board Members

Practitioners

Larry D. Walling, FASLA  
National Park Service

Richard N. Giardella, ASLA  
Giardella Associates

Karl Von Bieberstein, FASLA  
Newman Jackson Bieberstein

Educators

Stephanie Rolley, FASLA  
Kansas State University

Karen C. Hanna, FASLA  
California State Polytechnic University

Gary Kesler, FASLA  
Pennsylvania State University

Public Representatives

Linda Battram  
Judith Ellis  
Gennady Schwartz

ASLA Representative

David H. Walters, ASLA

CELA Representative

Mary Myers, Ph.D., ASLA  
LAAB Chair  
Temple University

CLARB Representative

Ellis Antunez, FASLA

Professor Jack Sullivan, FASLA  
Landscape Architecture Program  
Plant Science and Landscape Architecture  
2146 Plant Science Building  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Professor Sullivan:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its February 24-25, 2012 meeting granted initial accreditation to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at the University of Maryland. This status is subject to review of a satisfactory progress report to be submitted by July 1, 2014, 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, 2017. Accordingly, the MLA program is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2017.

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.

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,

Dr. Mary E. Myers, ASLA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Wallace D. Loh, President

**University of Maryland  
MLA Program  
LAAB Meeting  
February 24-25, 2012**

**Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

1. Establish and formally adopt a program mission statement, modifying goals and objectives as necessary to ensure progress toward attainment of the new mission (Standard 1).

**Suggestions for Improvements**

1. Develop a document articulating how Landscape Architecture faculty demonstrate achievement of the criteria for tenure and promotion (Standard 2).
2. Develop a memorandum of understanding detailing budgeting and resource allocation processes for the MLA program (Standard 2).
3. Evaluate whether the program would be best served in the future by consolidating the BLA and MLA coordinator roles into a Director position (Standard 2).
4. Review the MLA studio sequence to ensure that it reflects the goals for investigating regional, urban and community landscapes as stated, or to revise the studio goals if these study areas do not fit the intent of the studio sequence/pedagogy envisioned by the program (Standard 3).
5. Develop a more formal process for assessing, evaluating and revising curriculum (Standard 3).
6. Make certain that all syllabi include the headings all necessary information categories, and a standard statement of policies and procedures (Standard 3).
7. Consider developing a construction documents course, or incorporating the production of an outline CD set in an existing course (Standard 3)
8. Create a formal mentoring program involving area alumni and practitioners to aid students in their academic and career growth and development (Standard 4).
9. Ensure that appropriate time and opportunity are afforded to the more senior faculty at the Associate level for them to prepare applications for promotion to full professor (Standard 5).
10. Develop a more focused effort to establish the roles and responsibilities of the Alumni Advisory Board now that it has been established (Standard 6).
11. Identify and assign a second pin-up space to accommodate studio reviews (Standard 7).
12. Install lcd projectors or smart boards in the studio areas to accommodate instructional needs (Standard 7).