



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

---

Ron Leighton  
Accreditation Manager

August 17, 2011

Board Members

Practitioners

Larry D. Walling, FASLA  
National Park Service

Richard N. Ciardella, ASLA  
Ciardella 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  
LAAB Chair

Public Representatives

Linda Battram  
Judith Ellis  
Gennady Schwartz

ASLA Representative

Whitney Talcott, FASLA  
LAAB Chair  
Talcott & Associates

CELA Representative

Mary Myers, Ph.D., ASLA  
Temple University

CLARB Representative

Ellis Antunez, FASLA

Sean E. Michael, Ph.D., Professor and Department Head  
Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning  
Utah State University  
4005 Old Main Hill  
Logan, UT 84322-4005

Dear Professor Michael:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its August 1-2, 2011 meeting granted accreditation to the course of study leading to the first professional BLA degree at Utah 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, 2017. Accordingly, the BLA program is next scheduled for a review during the spring 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,

Whitney Talcott, FASLA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Ray Coward, Provost

**Utah State University  
BLA Program  
LAAB Meeting  
August 1-2, 2011**

**Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

1. Develop a strategy to insure a 15:1 or lower student to faculty ratio especially in upper division courses. (Standard 2)

**Suggestions for Improvement:**

1. Update the College of Agriculture's mission statement to insure the program is a central part of the College's vision for the future. (Standard 1)
2. Review the annual evaluation / tenure and promotion documents to insure their relevance to periodic cultural changes within the university. (Standard 2)
3. Program's leadership will continue to provide appropriate evaluation credit for various forms of scholarship in its annual assessment of faculty performance. (Standard 2)
4. Find a way to integrate GIS into the curriculum as a mandated course. (Standard 3)