



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Ron Leighton
Accreditation Manager

March 13, 2012

Board Members

Nancy Takahashi, ASLA, Program Director
Graduate Landscape Architecture Program
University of Virginia
School of Architecture, Campbell Hall
P.O. Box 400122
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4122

Practitioners

Larry D. Walling, FASLA
National Park Service

Richard N. Cardella, ASLA
Cardella Associates

Karl Von Bieberstein, FASLA
Newman Jackson Bieberstein

Dear Professor Takahashi:

Educators

Stephanie Rolley, FASLA
Kansas State University

Karen C. Hanna, FASLA
California State Polytechnic University

Gary Kesler, FASLA
Pennsylvania State University

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its February 24-25, 2012 meeting granted accreditation to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at the University of Virginia. 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, 2017. Accordingly, the MLA program is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2017.

Public Representatives

Linda Battram
Judith Ellis
Gennady Schwartz

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.

ASLA Representative

David H. Walters, ASLA

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

CELA Representative

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

Sincerely,

CLARB Representative

Ellis Antunez, FASLA

Mary Myers, ASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Teresa A. Sullivan, President

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

Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation:

None

Suggestions for Improvement

1. Ensure that the full-time faculty complement reaches and maintains LAAB standards for a first professional degree at the graduate level and has an adequate ratio of full-time to adjunct faculty to accomplish the program's goals and objectives regarding student learning outcomes, faculty scholarship and creative activity, and support to students through advising and other functions (Standard 2).
2. Ensure that the pending School of Architecture administrative staff resources plan provides adequate support to the Landscape Architecture program (Standard 2).
3. Evaluate the administrative and leadership responsibilities of the department chair to ensure that the release time arrangements and administrative staff support resources associated with this role are appropriately calibrated to the program's expectations for teaching and scholarship by the chair (Standard 2).
4. Develop an assessment plan to document, evaluate and demonstrate curriculum effectiveness and student achievement (Standard 3).
5. Develop a means for students not pursuing the individual thesis option in their final year exposure to research methodologies appropriate to the profession of landscape architecture (Standard 3).
6. Develop a formal Assessment Plan with tools or metrics to document, evaluate and demonstrate curriculum effectiveness and student learning outcomes (Standard 4).