



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

March 16, 2020

Educators

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Elisabeth Orr, MLA, ASLA, RLA
Associate Professor and Program Coordinator
Landscape Architecture Program
School of Design and Community Development
Davis College of Agriculture Natural Resources and Design
West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia

Practitioners

Joy Lyndes, ASLA, Chair
Coastal Sage

Ramon Murray, ASLA
Murray Design Group, Inc.

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA

Dear Professor Orr:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its February 7-8, 2020 meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at West Virginia University. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by December 1, 2021, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Public Representatives

Gilbert Holmes
University of LaVerne College of Law

Tom Jacobs
Mid-America Regional Council

Lucinda McDade, Ph.D.
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

The interim report should provide an update on each Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (RAA) in order to demonstrate compliance, or steps towards compliance, with the respective standard. Programs will be given up to two years to resolve their RAA(s). Upon receipt of the two-year Interim Report, the LAAB will accept that the RAA(s) have been addressed or, if not, the program will be given two more years to resolve the issues. A second Interim Report will be due to the LAAB on or before four years from the receipt of this Action Letter. If the RAA(s) are not successfully resolved or, in the case of longer term issues, substantial and verifiable progress has not been made at that time (after four years from this Action Letter) then the program may be moved to provisional status, it may be suspended, or in some cases the program's accreditation may be revoked.

ASLA Representative
Leonard Hopper, FASLA
Weintraub Diaz, LLC

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends December 31, 2025. Accordingly, the MLA program at West Virginia University is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2025.

CELA Representative
Roxi Thoren., ASLA
University of Oregon

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the visiting team's report, and the program's response to the report.

CLARB Representative
Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA
Mark Thomas

Executive Director
Kristopher Pritchard

Enclosed is a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in the interim report via the process laid out above) and an Interim Reporting template. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy Lyndes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "L".

Joy Lyndes, ASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: E. Gordon Gee, President

**West Virginia University
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 7-8, 2020**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Update the program disclosure information online as well as the information in the MLA student handbook to reflect the comprehensive curriculum sequence and accreditation of the three-year MLA (Standard 1).

Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board

Interim Report

Date:

Section 1.

Name of Institution:

Name of Department:

Name of Program:

Date of Decision Letter:

Section 2.

Recommendation Affecting Accreditation: (Describe verbatim the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in the Decision Letter that is the subject of this Report and attach the Decision Letter. If Decision Letter identified more than one (1) Recommendation Affecting Accreditation, complete an Interim Report for each Recommendation.)

Section 3.

Action Taken by Program: (Describe the action taken by the Program to address the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in Section 2 of this Report. Attach any appropriate documentation that supports the action taken by the Program)