August 14, 2014

Joseph Ragsdale, ASLA, Department Head
Landscape Architecture Department
College of Architecture and Environmental Design
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

Dear Professor Ragsdale:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its July 23-24, 2014 meeting granted accreditation for six (6) years to the course of study leading to the first professional BLA degree at California Polytechnic 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, 2020. Accordingly, the BLA program is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2020.

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,

Karen Hanna-Towne, FASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Jeffrey Armstrong, President

California Polytechnic State University
BLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 23-24, 2014

Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Explore and develop appropriate rubrics, process and collection of data to analyze and evaluate student learning outcomes throughout the curriculum (Standard 3).
2. Clearly define and articulate expectations with respect to the balance between the realms of the academic endeavor including teaching, scholarship/research and service (Standard 5).

Suggestions for Improvements

1. Explore and implement expanded opportunities for interdisciplinary coursework and collaboration both within and outside of the College of Architecture & Environmental Design (Standard 3).
2. Conduct an audit of all syllabi to ensure consistency and compliance with all university requirements (Standard 3).
3. Consider expanding the extent of CADD, site analysis and GIS throughout the curriculum (Standard 3).
4. Explore ways to integrate scholarly/research based support into design and engineering studio projects (Standard 3).
5. Encourage the exploration of enhanced relationships with professional and disciplinary organizations as a means of leveraging opportunities for faculty-led research and funding (Standard 5).
6. Explore ways of aligning the 'learn by doing' model exercised within the curriculum with opportunities to generate scholarship (Standard 5).
7. Explore faculty mentoring strategies that take advantage of resources beyond the department, including those within the College of Architecture and Environmental Design and other colleges at the university (Standard 5).
8. Engage in a dialogue with the college and university administration aimed at dedicating resources promoting increased faculty scholarship opportunities (Standard 5).
9. Explore expanding the role of the Landscape Architecture Department Advisory Council to serve as a facilitator in connecting the department to additional opportunities for student and faculty development (Standard 6).
10. Consider ways to better resolve more consistent output device availability (Standard 7).