



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Ron Leighton
LAAB Administrator

March 8, 2013

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Professor Pauline Hurley-Kurtz, ASLA, Chair
Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture
201 Dixon Hall
Temple University-Ambler Campus
580 Meetinghouse Road
Ambler, PA 19002

Dear Professor Hurley-Kurtz:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its February 23, 2013 meeting granted initial accreditation to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at Temple University. This status is subject to review of a satisfactory progress report to be submitted by July 1, 2015, 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, 2018. Accordingly, the MLA program is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2018.

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 Vice Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Neil D. Thobald, President

**Temple University
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 23, 2013**

Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Create a process for evaluating the program's progress in meeting its educational goals (Standard 1).
2. Develop a long-range plan that describes how the program mission and objectives will be met and document the review and evaluation process (Standard 1).
3. Establish a regular, annual performance evaluation process for all faculty (tenured, tenure – track, non-tenure track, and adjunct) (Standard 2).
4. Mentoring for tenure-track faculty and faculty seeking promotion should be instituted and include discussion of issues such as salary compression (Standard 5).
5. Annual performance reviews should be conducted by the Department Chair aligned with the guidelines of the School of Environmental Design, the College of Liberal Arts and the University (Standard 5).

Suggestions for Improvement

1. A more formalized internship expectation could be incorporated into the curriculum.
2. Coordinate consistent curricular review and assessment between the full-time and adjunct faculty (Standard 3).
3. Clarification of the decision-making process in the College of Liberal Arts is needed, especially for merit raises (Standard 5).
4. Create an advisory board consisting of program graduates, non-alum practitioners, Temple graduates from other related disciplines, and landscape architecture users (government, private sector, and non-government organizations) (Standard 6).