



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Ron Leighton
LAAB Administrator

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Dean J. Almy III, AIA, FIUD
Associate Professor in architecture
Director, Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture
School of Architecture
The University of Texas at Austin
310 Inner Campus Drive, Stop B7500
Austin, TX 78712-1009

Dear Professor Almy:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its February 23, 2013 meeting granted accreditation to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at the University of Texas at Austin. 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, 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,

Mary Myers, FASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Steven Leslie, EVP and Provost

**University of Texas at Austin
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 23, 2013**

Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Continue to assess and refine the program's missions, goals, and objectives in light of foundational principles, the State of Texas, and the program's urban and design emphases (Standard 1).
2. Create a long-range plan with action items describing how the program's mission and objectives will be met (Standard 1).
3. Improve diversity of faculty and increase the program's full-time faculty with professional degrees in landscape architecture to minimum of 5 (Standard 2).

Suggestions for Improvement

1. Explore options for disseminating information in various media about the program that can be used for public relations (Standard 1).
2. Assess faculty's teaching and service loads in relationship to their abilities to engage in individual development and scholarship (Standard 2).
3. Create a diversity plan for graduate students in landscape architecture (Standard 2)
4. Consider appointing a tenured landscape architecture faculty to serve as program director (Standard 2).
5. Evaluate curriculum in order to identify connections among core courses and electives with design studios (Standard 3).
6. Identify opportunities for advanced students to demonstrate independent research (Standard 3).
7. Identify methods to balance time the faculty's requirements for student advising with other faculty responsibilities (Standard 4).
8. Integrate multi-unit, adjunct, and part-time faculty into program's curriculum, evaluation, and development in a coordinated and organized manner (Standard 5).
9. Advance the learning activities and research opportunities at the Wildflower Center (Standard 6).
10. Document service learning activities on a regular basis (Standard 6).
11. Continue to develop a comprehensive registry of alumni (Standard 6).
12. Continue to develop relationships with local practitioners (Standard 6).