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Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

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August 22, 2012

Dr. Alon Kvashny, FASLA, Chair
Department of Landscape Architecture
Box 42121
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79401-2121

Dear Professor Kvashny:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its July 27-28, 2012 meeting granted accreditation to the course of study leading to the first professional BLA degree at Texas Tech 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, 2018. Accordingly, the BLA program is next scheduled for a review during the spring 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, ASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Robert Smith, Provost

Texas Tech University
BLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 27-28, 2012

Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions:

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation:

None

Suggestions for Improvement:

1. Explore ways to increase the diversity of the student body through enhanced and targeted recruitment efforts (Standard 2).
2. Explore supplemental or alternative mentoring opportunities for junior faculty regarding promotion and tenure to increase understanding of the process and research expectations (Standard 2).
3. Eliminate the aerial photo course and replace it with a 2nd required GIS class (Standard 3).
4. Move the portfolio class to the 4th year.
5. Eliminate the 1 hour seminar class and replace with other classes or add a credit to an existing class and fold the material into that class (Standard 3).
6. Ensure that classes abroad have the same rigor as campus courses (Standard 3).
7. Consider alternative or modified management approaches for the computer lab, plotters, printers and scanners in order to better accommodate student and faculty needs and schedules (Standard 7).
8. As the current facilities do not meet all standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), carefully consider compliance with ADA standards when deciding upon new locations for the department functions currently housed in the Plant and Soil Sciences building (Standard 7).
9. Because existing and prospective landscape architecture students and faculty are naturally sensitive to their surroundings, examine all possible alternatives prior to locating aspects of the program in a nearby basement. Explore funding opportunities for adaptive reuse of the historic barn as a department facility; this would provide a strong program identity and serve as a considerable recruiting tool (Standard 7).