



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Ron Leighton
LAAB Administrator

February 20, 2014

Board Members

Associate Professor Charlie B. Yuill, ASLA, Chair
Landscape Architecture Program
Division of Resource Management
Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences
West Virginia University
P.O. Box 6108
Morgantown, WV 26506-6108

Practitioners

Rodney Swink, FASLA

Richard N. Ciardella, ASLA
Ciardella Associates

Karl Von Bieberstein, FASLA
Newman Jackson Bieberstein

Dear Professor Yuill:

Educators

Stephanie Rolley, FASLA
Kansas State University

Karen Hanna-Towne, FASLA, Chair
California State Polytechnic University

Gary Kesler, FASLA
Pennsylvania State University

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its February 8, 2014 meeting granted initial accreditation to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at West Virginia University. This status is subject to review of a satisfactory progress report to be submitted by July 1, 2017, 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, 2019. Accordingly, the MLA program is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2019.

Public Representatives

Linda Battram
Gennady Schwartz

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.

ASLA Representative

David H. Walters, ASLA

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.

CELA Representative

Kenneth Brooks, FASLA
Arizona State University

On behalf of the visiting team, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to them by the faculty, staff, and students.

CLARB Representative

Tom Sherry, ASLA

Sincerely,

Karen Hanna-Towne, FASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Michelle Wheatly, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**West Virginia University
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 8, 2014**

Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Rewrite the mission statement to include values, reference to the University mission and remove program description narrative (Standard 1).
2. Assign a faculty member to the role of graduate coordinator for a more organized mentoring and advisement path for students (Standard 4).
3. Consider bringing on a mid-level tenured faculty to balance the experience and distribution of faculty (Standard 5).

Suggestions for Improvements

1. Review the long-range plan and include goals for program growth, recruitment and identity (Standard 1).
2. Review the program website for accessibility and conformance with the LAAB Public Information Policy, and consider producing a printed program brochure (Standard 1).
3. Continue to pursue the development of fair and equitable tenure and promotion criteria for LA faculty (Standard 2).
4. Encourage those faculty who have not identified a mentor at WVU to investigate the University outside mentoring program (Standard 2).
5. Continue to monitor, discuss and revise the curriculum as the program grows and develops (Standard 3).
6. Provide more outside speakers or engagement with private practitioners to further diversify the educational opportunities for the students (Standard 4).
7. Incorporate a formal mentoring program for junior faculty, including peer review of teaching (Standard 5).
8. Ensure that the CDT (Community Design Team) program continues as a vital part of the College's service and outreach (Standard 6).
9. Provide accessible and effective means of plotting for graduate students (Standard 7).