



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

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August 28, 2020

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Eliza Pennypacker, ASLA
Department Head
Department of Landscape Architecture
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA

Dear Professor Pennypacker:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 30-31, 2020 meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at Pennsylvania State University. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2022, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

The interim report should provide an update on each Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (RAA) in order to demonstrate compliance, or steps towards compliance, with the respective standard. In accordance with LAAB policy, programs have up to two years to resolve their RAA(s). Upon receipt of the two-year Interim Report, the LAAB will accept that the RAA(s) have been addressed or, if not, the program will be given two more years to resolve the issues. A second Interim Report will be due to the LAAB on or before four years from the receipt of this Action Letter. If the RAA(s) are not successfully resolved or, in the case of longer term issues, substantial and verifiable progress has not been made at that time (after four years from this Action Letter) then the program may be moved to provisional status, it may be suspended, or in some cases the program's accreditation may be revoked.

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. As stated in the LAAB Accreditation Standards, the grant of accreditation will begin from the originally scheduled review date regardless of any rescheduling of the program's site visit. Therefore, the six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2025 due to the one year delayed visit. Accordingly, the MLA program at Pennsylvania State University is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2025.

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the visiting team's report, and the program's response to the report.

Enclosed is a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in the interim report via the process laid out above) and an Interim Reporting template. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy Lyndes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and end.

Joy Lyndes, ASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Eric J. Barron, President

**Pennsylvania State University
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 30-31, 2020**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Explore methods to increase the effectiveness of minority recruitment and retention to increase student body diversity. Explore strategies to more clearly articulate targets and focus resources (Standard 2).

Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board

Interim Report

Date:

Section 1.

Name of Institution:

Name of Department:

Name of Program:

Date of Decision Letter:

Section 2.

Recommendation Affecting Accreditation: (Describe verbatim the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in the Decision Letter that is the subject of this Report and attach the Decision Letter. If Decision Letter identified more than one (1) Recommendation Affecting Accreditation, complete an Interim Report for each Recommendation.)

Section 3.

Action Taken by Program: (Describe the action taken by the Program to address the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in Section 2 of this Report. Attach any appropriate documentation that supports the action taken by the Program)