



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Kristopher Pritchard
Accreditation and Education
Programs Manager

August 17, 2015

Board Members

Practitioners

Rodney Swink, FASLA

Joy Lyndes, ASLA
Coastal Sage

Karl Von Bieberstein, FASLA
Newman Jackson Bieberstein

Educators

Stephanie Rolley, FASLA, Chair
Kansas State University

Ned Crankshaw, ASLA
University of Kentucky

Gary Kesler, FASLA
Pennsylvania State University

Public Representatives

Linda Battram

Lucinda McDade, Ph.D.

Tom Jacobs

ASLA Representative

Leonard Hopper, FASLA

CELA Representative

Kenneth Brooks, FASLA
Arizona State University

CLARB Representative

Tom Sherry, ASLA

Dr. Forster Ndubisi, FASLA
Landscape Architecture Department Head
Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning
Texas A&M University
3112 Langford Architecture Center
College Station, Texas 77843

Dear Dr. Ndubisi:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 17-18, 2015 meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the first professional BLA degree at Texas A&M 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, 2021. Accordingly, the BLA program is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2021.

In making its decision, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephanie Rolley'.

Stephanie Rolley, FASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Michael K. Young, President
Ming-Han Li, Coordinator of BLA Program

**Texas A&M University
BLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 17-18, 2015**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Space allocation problems need to be addressed in the following manner (Standard 7):
 - a. At the College level: reconsider space allocation prior to the Fall semester so that the landscape architecture program can meet the commitment it has made to its students in keeping with professional education expectations.
 - b. At the Program level: explore ways to re-envision the process by which studio instruction is delivered, in order to try to use space more efficiently and effectively.

Suggestions for Improvements

1. The continued emphasis on the unique nature of the studio experience in a professional design program needs to be articulated regularly to those outside the discipline, both on campus and off (Standard 1).
2. Continued progress regarding collaboration within the college, given the current quantitative assessment model, and the inherent potential for tension between units, is imperative for the provision of a quality BLA student experience (Standard 2).
3. Faculty should consider increasing the importance of creativity and the creative aspects of design and diversity of thought, especially early in the curricular sequence (Standard 3).