September 13, 2019

Judith Stilgenbauer, ASLA
Associate Professor & Director of Graduate Studies
School of Architecture
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Professor Stilgenbauer:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its August 2-3, 2019 meeting granted candidacy status to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at University of Hawaii at Manoa. This status is subject to review of annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Candidacy is an accreditation classification granted to any program which is in the planning or early stages of development or an intermediate stage of program implementation. This accreditation classification provides evidence to the educational institution, licensing bodies, and the public that at the time of evaluation, the developing education program appears to have the potential for meeting the standards set forth in the requirements for an accredited educational program in landscape architecture.

After achieving candidacy status, a program must apply for initial accreditation within one year of its first graduating class. The program is required to communicate with LAAB when the known date of the first graduating class will occur. If initial accreditation is not granted, the program can retain its candidacy status for one additional year.

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the candidacy review report, and the institution's response to that report.

On behalf of the program evaluator, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to her by the faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

Rodney Swink, FASLA, PLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: David Lassner, PhD, President

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Develop goals tied directly to the educational objectives (Standard 1).

2. Articulate educational objectives that are measurable and tied to specific learning outcomes (Standard 1).

3. Complete the School of Architecture *Strategic & Action Plan 2019-2024* (Standard 1).

4. Prepare a long-range plan for the Landscape Architecture Program (Standard 1).

5. Develop an easily navigated website with requisite public information (Standard 1).

6. Establish a School administrative structure that addresses the needs of each program and allows equitable distribution of responsibilities (Standard 2).

7. Create an accurate organizational chart (Standard 2).

8. Develop a Program governance structure that allows faculty participation in decision making and engages part-time faculty as well (Standard 2).

9. Ensure that faculty and part-time faculty are provided a mentoring and annual evaluation process and policies specific to landscape architecture (Standard 2).

10. Establish a Landscape Architecture Program process for end of semester or academic year review and assessment that engages all faculty and considers student input (Standard 3).

11. Articulate objectives, reporting, and evaluation procedures for co-curricular activities (Standard 3).

12. Establish admission criteria and curricular requirements for MLA Advanced Placement Track applicants that ensures that those with non-landscape architecture backgrounds meet the LAAB requirement for three years of academic study (Standard 3).

13. Develop a system and calendar of events for integrating part-time faculty into curriculum development and program decision making (Standard 5).

14. Identify and assign an appropriate administrative/teaching load for the program administrator and the assistant professor who will replace her while she is on sabbatical (Standard 5).

15. Ensure that there is appropriate space for the third cohort of MLA students (Standard 7).

Considerations For Improvement

1. Explore ways to utilize tuition waivers from the University (Standard 2).

2. Ensure that technology education covers software necessary for professional employment (Standard 3).

3. Develop the alumni tools and processes that will be used for future recordkeeping and engagement (Standard 6).