



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

September 3, 2021

Educators

Jack Ahern, Ph.D., FASLA, FCELA
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Terry Clements, FASLA
Chair and Professor
Landscape Architecture Program
School of Architecture + Design
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Practitioners

Dale Jaeger, FASLA
WLA Studio

Ramon Murray, ASLA
Murray Design Group, Inc.

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA

Dear Professor Clements:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 29-30, 2021 meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2023, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Public Representatives

Gilbert Holmes
University of LaVerne College of Law

Derrek Nicc-Williams
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Patty Reece
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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 Accreditation 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 Accreditation 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.

ASLA Representative

Kona Gray, FASLA
EDSA

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2027. Accordingly, the MLA program at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2027.

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren., ASLA
Pennsylvania State University

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.

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA
Mark Thomas

Director

Kristopher Pritchard

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 Report 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 cursive script that reads "Jack Ahern".

Jack Ahern, PhD, FASLA, FCELA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Timothy D. Sands, President

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 29-30, 2021

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Given the consolidation of the MLA program, the program needs to clarify a distinctive identity, establish a common understanding of the mission of the MLA program in the Landscape Architecture Program and the School of A+D, and ensure continuous support to address the needs of the MLA students throughout their entire experience in the program (Standard 4).
2. Address the studio space and program locations relative to the rest of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS) design programs to allow for cross-discipline interaction and collaboration. This includes physical facilities and other resources, i.e., libraries, fabrication labs, etc. (Standard 7).

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)