March 22, 2010

Dr. Rod Barnett, Chair

Master of Landscape Architecture Program

School of Architecture

430 Dudley Hall

Auburn University

Auburn, AL 36849-5316

Dear Dr. Barnett:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its March 5-6, 2010 meeting granted accreditation to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at Auburn University 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 December 31, 2015. Accordingly, the MLA program is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2015.

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.

Enclosed is a copy of the final visiting team report and 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. Also enclosed is a copy of LAAB’s policy on Substantive Change.

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,

Richard Hawks, FASLA

LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Jay Gogue, President

**Auburn University**

**MLA Program**

**LAAB Meeting**

**March 5-6, 2010**

**Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions**

### Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Clearly articulate the Program’s mission; and identify supporting educational objective the attainment of which can be demonstrated (Standard 1.)

2. Implement, and make regular use of curriculum review strategies that will evaluate success in achieving the Program’s academic mission (Standard 3.)

### Suggestions for Improvements

1. Develop a long-range plan and outcome measurement strategies (Standard 1).

2. Develop a Memorandum of Understanding, comparable to that developed for the Community Planning Program (also located in the School of Architecture) to ensure that the necessary authority of the Program Administrator and faculty be formally recognized. (Standard 2.)

 3. Develop a comprehensive administrative data base to track such matters as student applications and credentials, post-graduation placements, faculty research grants applied for and secured, faculty publications, comprehensive listing of visiting lecturers/critics, and so on. (Standard 2.)

 4. Strengthen the construction technology sequence; consider moving a course or courses to second year; strengthen computer applications; develop tactics for more rigorous scholarly inquiry; and re-consider the role of GIS as a contributor to the intellectual process required of a graduate-only program in landscape architecture (Standard 3.)

5. Review the adequacy of 54 credits as an appropriate course-load to prepare students from related disciplines for an MLA degree (Standard 3).

6. The Program administrator should have some more formal role in the annual evaluation of the landscape architecture faculty (Standard 4.)

7. There should be on-going attention to salary support for junior faculty in landscape architecture to bring them to a level of parity with University and peer institution levels. (Standard 4.)

8. Improve alumni tracking and update it on a regular basis (Standard 6.)

9. Make more transparent the existing avenue for alumni giving directly to the Program (Standard 6.)

10. Increase and deepen students’ exposure to practitioners (Standard 7.)

11. The library must be able to support MLA graduate education (Standard 9.)