March 22, 2010

Umit Yilmaz, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Director of Landscape Architecture

Dept. of Planning and Landscape Architecture

163 Lee Hall, Box 340511

Clemson University

Clemson, SC 29634-0511

Dear Umit:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its March 5-6, 2010 meeting granted initial accreditation for a six (6) year period to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at Clemson University. This status is subject to review of a satisfactory progress report to be submitted by July 1, 2012, 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. 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: President James Barker, FAIA

**Clemson University**

**MLA Program**

**LAAB Meeting**

**March 5-6, 2010**

**Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions**

### A. Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Engage in a long-range planning process and describe how the program mission and objectives will be met (Standard 1).
2. Devise a curricular approach where students are given a relatively equal foundation in digital media skills (Standard 3).
3. Further examine how the final terms of the MLA program will require each student to engage in professional or academic scholarship (Standard 3).
4. Find a means to have planting design covered despite faculty retirements (Standard 3).
5. Monitor the progress of the building project and make every effort to keep it as a priority and on schedule (Standard 9).

### B. Suggestions for Improvements

1. The program mission and objectives should be reviewed for alignment with Clemson’s “Areas of Emphasis”. Linkages between the two should be articulated in the program mission and/or objectives (Standard 1).
2. Clearly state the program’s accreditation status in all published documents, both print and online (Standard 1).
3. Carefully monitor responsibilities of junior faculty to ensure that service and teaching responsibilities do not impede their ability to pursue continued academic and personal development and to engage in scholarship (Standard 2).
4. Foster a collegial environment wherein all faculty are comfortable expressing their opinions and dissenting viewpoints are treated with respect (Standard 2).
5. The use of mixed course sections is understandable with the recent financial and staffing shortages, the program should investigate long-term solutions to the majority of undergraduate offerings for MLA students (Standard 3).
6. Investigate the issue of comprehensive technical drawings and equal outcomes in landscape technology course sections (Standard 3).
7. Provide teaching/service relief to new faculty so that they may establish a career path in their area of scholarship (Standard 4).
8. Initiate a procedure for tracking graduates of the MLA program and actively involving them in the future of the program through newsletters, visiting reviews and critiques, and other activities (Standard 6).
9. Encourage the College to develop a transition plan for the building remodeling period, so that disruption to classes and other activities will be minimized (Standard 9).
10. Make every effort to take advantage of opportunities to expand the branch libraries landscape architecture collection (Standard 9).