



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

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William A. Green, ASLA
Program Chair
Landscape Architecture Program – Rodman Hall
94 West Alumni Avenue
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island

Dear Professor Green:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its February 5-6, 2016 meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the first professional BLA degree at University of Rhode Island. 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 December 31, 2021. Accordingly, the BLA program is next scheduled for a review during the fall 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 considerations for improvement. 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, appearing to read 'Gary Kesler', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Gary Kesler, FASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. David M. Dooley, President

**University of Rhode Island
BLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 5-6, 2016**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Address and resolve facility issues related to heating, cooling, and lighting that adversely affect the teaching and learning environment in Rodman Hall (Standard 7).

Considerations for Improvements

1. Revisit both short and long-term objectives and tactics for achieving those objectives given the recent transition to the College of Arts and Sciences (Standard 1).
2. Create a more concise and focused mission statement to further promote program identity and focus (Standard 1).
3. Pursue new faculty to enable the program to enhance diversity, specialization in necessary areas, curricular and program flexibility and future opportunities (Standard 2).
4. Address the need for sufficient and permanent staff support to better meet the department's administrative needs and faculty support (Standard 2).
5. Consider more formalized opportunities for off-campus travel, field trips and study abroad (Standard 3).
6. Provide wider promotion of the department's service-learning efforts internally and externally to increase awareness and visibility (Standard 5).
7. Consider re-instituting a formal advisory council for the professional program in landscape architecture in order to guide the program, build wider support and foster relationships with the profession and other key stakeholders (Standard 5).
8. Due to the challenges of the existing facility and its limited opportunity for growth and the potential for new collaborations, incorporate into the program for the proposed College of Arts and Science's building designated space for the professional landscape architecture program (Standard 7).