

Unit Response Report and Initial Action Plan Cover Sheet

Unit Name: Department of Landscape Architecture

APR Site-Visit Dates: November 13-15, 2017

Unit Chair: Review and Confirmation

The action items provided in the Initial Action Plan aligns with information provided in the Unit Response Report. YES () NO () PARTIALLY ()

Alfred Simon  08/09/2018
Print Name Signature Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Dean/Associate Dean: Dean's Office Review and Approval

Does the proposed Initial Action Plan include action items that are within the Unit's budget?

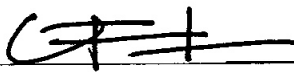
YES () NO () PARTIALLY ()

What is the financial impact of the Unit's Initial Action Plan?

none

What additional resources are required beyond the Unit's budget?

none

Geraldine Forbes Isais  8.10.2018
Print Name Signature Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Provost/Associate Provost: Office of the Provost Review and Approval

Comments/Feedback:

Print Name Signature Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Unit Response Report

Department of Landscape Architecture

APR Visit November 13-15, 2017

Introduction

The APR visit to the Department of Landscape Architecture took place from November 13-15, 2017. The visiting team comprised:

Hala Nassar, Department of Landscape Architecture, Clemson University
Bernie Dahl, Department of Landscape Architecture, Purdue University
Chris Duvall, Department of Geography and Environmental studies, University of New Mexico

The following is the summary of the team report, including suggestions.

Overall, the Academic Review Team had a successful site visit thanks to the efforts of Alfred Simon, Department Chair, the faculty of Landscape Architecture and Monique Rubio, the department administrative assistance. The department has shown a record of positively and constructively responding to recommendations of previous LAAB and APR suggestions. To close with a summary, the Academic Review Team has the following main recommendations to make, in the hopes of further strengthening what is already a strong program:

- 1- *Clarify and develop a strategic plan for the department, to ensure its continued growth and success, and to maintain the department's current vision into the future.*
- 2- *Continue to seek ways to enhance faculty leadership capabilities within the department, in order to maintain future progress despite inevitable retirements and other changes in faculty composition.*
- 3- *Clarify the program learning goals, primarily just by re-organizing existing statements of these goals, and present these publicly, such as via the departmental website.*
- 4- *Consider forming a Landscape Architecture Advisory Board/Group. The department should seek to formalize the strong support and goodwill it has amongst alumni, community members, and other stakeholders by forming a group that can provide input on and support for program development.*
- 5- *Develop a Masters of Landscape Architecture Handbook that can be a live document and resource for incoming and existing students. The MLA Handbook could be placed on the department website, and linked to UNM resources and offices.*
- 6- *Consider the implementation of exit interviews of graduating students, as an additional means of program and curriculum assessment and effectiveness.*

- 7- *Strategize to maximize the Department's development and fundraising efforts in order to ensure the continuous growth of its endowment and additional resources.*
- 8- *A great deal of overlap exists between the national process of program accreditation through the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) and the university Academic Review Process (ARP). The department should encourage the UNM to streamline and/or synchronize the two processes.*

Unit Response

The following is our response to the suggestions above, as stated in the action plan template.

Clarify and develop a strategic plan for the department, to ensure its continued growth and success, and to maintain the department's current vision into the future.

We have worked to develop a strategic plan during the Spring 2018 semester. The plan is now almost complete and needs to be reviewed by the faculty very early in the Fall 2018 semester to finalize.

Clarify the program learning goals, primarily just by re-organizing existing statements of these goals, and present these publicly, such as via the departmental website.

We are unsure how to respond to this recommendation. Our goals are currently set out in four different formats, including the strategic plan, course rubrics, syllabi, and an overall program/curriculum goals matrix. It is possible that the review team did not see and or connect these three formats. We are not clear on what additional or different documentation would be required.

Develop a Masters of Landscape Architecture Handbook that can be a live document and resource for incoming and existing students. The MLA Handbook could be placed on the department website, and linked to UNM resources and offices.

This handbook actually exists and has been updated every year since 2001, but the Chair failed to show it to the Review Team. We are currently updating the Handbook for Fall 2018.

Consider the implementation of exit interviews of graduating students, as an additional means of program and curriculum assessment and effectiveness.

We will begin to design this process in the Fall 2018 and implement in Spring 2019.

Continue to seek ways to enhance faculty leadership capabilities within the department, in order to maintain future progress despite inevitable retirements and other changes in faculty composition.

Associate Professor Katya Crawford has been appointed Associate Chair of Landscape Architecture starting Fall 2018, with the expectation that she will take over as Chair in January 2019. One faculty member retired in May 2018, and another will retire in December 2018. We anticipate advertising for two faculty in the 2018-19 academic year.

Strategize to maximize the Department's development and fundraising efforts in order to ensure the continuous growth of its endowment and additional resources. The development of an accurate and updated alumni database will enable us to engage in various fundraising strategies. We currently have an alumni event planned for September 2018.

Consider forming a Landscape Architecture Advisory Board/Group. The department should seek to formalize the strong support and goodwill it has amongst alumni, community members, and other stakeholders by forming a group that can provide input on and support for program development. Faculty have discussed this in the recent past, and are ambivalent about this suggestion. We brought the issue to the table again in the Spring 2018 semester and will continue to discuss it in the Fall 2018.