

**APR Mid-Cycle Check-In**

**Unit Name: Department of Landscape Architecture**

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

**Next Scheduled APR: Spring 2025**

**Unit Chair: Updates to Recommendations**

*Address all APR-related recommendations incorporated in the Unit Response and Action Plan documents, **adding rows as necessary**. New initiatives can be included and discussed, even if they were not included in the Unit Response or Action Plan.*

<b>Reviewer Recommendation or Finding</b>	<b>Action Taken since Review</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
<i>Describe the recommendation for change that resulted from the self-study, external review, department response, and initial action plan.</i>	<i>Describe the actions taken to implement the recommendation. If none, why?</i>	<i>Describe additional actions planned to implement the recommendation, or changes in the unit affecting implementation of recommendation.</i>
<p>Visibility and definition of student learning outcomes</p>	<p>In the fall of 2018 student learning outcomes were defined for each core LA course. A rubric of the learning outcomes was then made for each course that the instructor would fill out and turn in at the end of the semester. The rubrics would be reviewed by the Chair and the faculty before the course was taught again to ensure learning outcomes were being met.</p> <p>Additionally, the former Department Chair designed a syllabus template that clarifies the difference between learning outcomes and course objectives. Each Fall and spring we have faculty retreat to review syllabi clarity, accuracy and consistency.</p>	<p>None at this time.</p>

Visibility of a graduate manual	Associate Professor Kathleen Kambic and Sr Lecturer Susan Frye developed a graduate manual distinguishing the difference between a master's project and a thesis, committee requirements, essential forms and critical dates.  The new Sr Graduate Advisor holds program of studies workshops with the graduating cohort to ensure that the POS gets submitted on time.	Not at this time, but we are interested in what other information should be in the manual.
Cultivation of leadership within the department	The Department and School have sustained many changes in leadership since the last APR. More specific critique would be appreciated.	Further explanation needed.
Consultation via an advisory board.	In March of 2020 a team consisting of the former Chair, the Chair and Associate Chair put together a list of practitioners, educators and alumni and developed a draft mission statement for the board. When the pandemic hit and the project got put on hold.	Form the board by January 2023.

### **Unit Chair: Assessment Reflection**

*Consider the unit's assessment practices since the last APR. Please provide a small narrative reflecting on assessment impact, strengths, concerns, or obstacles that exist within the unit, focusing on those areas that would be well-served by leadership feedback and/or highlighted to reviewers at the unit's next APR.*

Context: Four years past between the 2017 APR and the sign off letter from the Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs. Between 2017 and 2022 the following has occurred:

- Professor Chris Wilson retired and became a working retiree
- January, 2019: Alf Simon Retired and Katya Crawford became Chair
- Summer, 2019: Dean Geraldine Forbes Isis retired and Professor Mark Childs became interim Dean
- Fall 2019: Assistant Professor Anthony Fettes is hired
- Summer, 2020: Robert Gonzalez becomes Dean
- Summer, 2020: Catherin Harris receives tenure
- Summer 2021: Sr Graduate Advisor resigns
- Fall 2021: Sr Graduate Advisor is hired part-time
- January 2022: Development Officer Retires

- Spring 2022: Department has a very successful accreditation review by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board and is accredited through 2028
- Spring 2022: The Department's Administrative Assistant resigns
- Summer 2022: New Development Officer is hired
- Summer 2022: Katya Crawford receives full professorship, Kathleen Kambic receives tenure, Anthony Fettes passes his mid-probationary review.
- Fall 2022: A new Academic Coordinator is hired to serve both LA and CRP

The University review process is similar to that of our LAAB accreditation review and the findings are similar. The most valuable part of a department review is the chance to internally critically review the department in its entirety, and have outside experts share their finding of strengths and weaknesses. We are proud of our department and deeply committed to strengthening it. Below is our own assessment of strengths and weaknesses that have been confirmed by the 2017 APR and 2022 LAAB accreditation visit:

#### LA Department strengths:

- Strong faculty with diverse research expertise
- Only program in the country with an indigenous design studio
- Excellence in service learning and community partnerships
- Excellent relationship with alumni and local professionals
- Diversity in student body
- Strength in interdisciplinary collaborations
- Excellence in design as evidenced by 20+ national and international student competition wins
- Excellent engagement with local and national academic and professional organizations
- Excellence in student experience (course and instructor evaluations and report from visiting teams)

#### LA Department weaknesses:

- Low, but growing, student numbers
- Small faculty with heavy service requirements
- Budget constraints
- Lack of Advisory Board (in the works)

As we slowly move out of the pandemic and adjust to significant changes within the School and Department, we intend to revise our strategic plan (updated 2019) by the Fall of 2023 and set the Advisory Board in motion. We will more succinctly align our department goals with student learning outcomes, continue to fundraise for our endowment and student scholarships and advocate for a new hiring plan. We are also in the process of developing an undergraduate landscape architecture program. We feel that an undergraduate program will harness New Mexico's diverse population (most of our graduates come from out of state) and help with the growing demand for landscape architects in New Mexico.

**Unit Chair: Review and Confirmation**

**Comments:**

The items provided in the Mid-Cycle Check in align with information provided in the previous Unit Response Report and Action Plan.     YES     NO     PARTIALLY

KATYA CRAWFORD                                            10.17.2022  
Print Name                                      Signature                                      Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

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

**Comments/Feedback:**

Robert González                                            Oct 17, 2022  
Print Name                                      Signature                                      Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

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

**Comments/Feedback:**

Pamela Cheek                                            Oct 17, 2022  
Print Name                                      Signature                                      Date (MM/DD/YYYY)