

RESPONSE TO THE PROGRAM REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE November, 2010

We would thank the program review team for their careful analysis of the architecture program and their recommendations for the future of the program. Our responses are indicated after each recommendation:

Recommendation One:

Space. Enrollment growth may have to be capped in the near future due to lack of studio space. An increase in space is necessary to ensure continued growth and the quality of the current programs.

The challenge of space is an ongoing concern. Administration has shown its commitment to Architecture by expansion of its present space (see Dean's response to the committee report) and recognizes that there is currently a need for more space to meet standards, and that the trailers need to be replaced to meet quality expectations. The University is committed to continue to see this need in the context of the master plans for the University campus, and will request the School of Architecture to propose an alternative plan that will meet the needs of the program in light of the lengthy delay in the School's fund-raising initiative for a new architecture building. More reflection will need to take place on the optimum numbers for the program as longer term plans are finalized. Administration will then ask the Office of University Advancement to place fund-raising for the School of Architecture as a priority.

Recommendation Two:

Program Assessment. There are many wonderful things happening in the School of Architecture but more assessment needs to be done so that the school has evidence of the great outcomes that are likely taking place. The school has already taken the first steps in putting together a plan for systematic assessment. This plan, once implemented, should help Architecture to better tell its story and will likely assist them in their next accreditation cycle.

The School of Architecture is actively involved in the assessment processes of the University. They are using WEAVE to identify outcomes, measurements, evidence of success and planning. As this process is refined, recommendation two will be met.

Recommendation Three:

Faculty Salaries. As stated earlier, recruitment and retention of quality faculty is hampered by salaries that are low compared with those in the profession and faculty at other schools. One remedy may be to make licensure equivalent to a Ph.D. when determining payscale. Since licensure represents the highest level of achievement and expertise in the field of architecture it could be viewed as the terminal professional degree. Becoming a licensed architect involves three years of internship prior to taking a series of 9 exams within a 5-year period. In addition, the School of Architecture could work with the University administration to develop a White Paper or clear policy that delineates the activities that constitute scholarly achievement in

architecture that should be considered for promotion and tenure. Finally, the University administration should take a close look at the financial productivity of the School of Architecture to see if salary augmentation is feasible.

The University has agreed in principle to consider the terminal M.Arch degree as equivalent to a PhD when determining pay scale. This action was taken after consideration of practices in other institutions. Implementation of this plan will be dependent on availability of funding. However, the University hopes to begin implementation in May, 2011. More work remains on delineating activities that constitute scholarly achievement in architecture. The calculation of research points is being reevaluated at present and this should open more dialogue amongst faculty on appropriate achievements to report for promotion and tenure. Administration welcomes specific suggestions from the School of Architecture to help refine faculty promotion policies. The School of Architecture has a long-standing White Paper that can be used as a starting point for these discussions.

The Dean and Provost are seeking benchmark figures to evaluate more effectively the financial productivity of the School of Architecture in relation to similar Schools. An initial analysis suggests the School is operating within expected parameters for the discipline, although there is growth capacity in the program, which would improve the comparative figures.

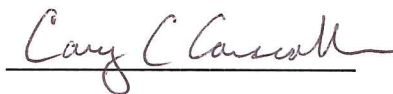
Recommendation Four:

The CERENID Bolivia mission project has been a vital component in achieving the mission objectives of the architecture programs and in fulfilling the service goals that the school has for its students for the past 15 years. This essential program should be reinstated in future summers. In addition, the University administration should design a systematic set of criteria for determining which tours and trips receive funding and give priority to those that are vital components of their hosting programs and/or have a strong mission or service emphasis.

The Bolivia mission project will take place in the summer of 2011. Administration does recognize this as an important mission-driven initiative that will assist in meeting the intended outcomes of the program.



Andrea Luxton, Provost



Carey Carscallen, Dean