



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Kristopher Pritchard
Accreditation and Education
Director

September 13, 2019

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Maria Gabriela Flores, AIA
Professor and Director
Architecture Department
International School of Design and Architecture
Universidad Ana G. Mendez (UAGM Gurabo Campus)
Gurabo, Puerto Rico 00778

Dear Professor Flores:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its August 2-3, 2019 meeting granted initial accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the first professional BSLA degree at Universidad Ana G. Mendez. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2021 and annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

The interim report should provide an update on each Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (RAA) in order to demonstrate compliance, or steps towards compliance, with the respective standard. Programs will be given up to two years to resolve their RAA(s). Upon receipt of the two-year Interim Report, the LAAB will accept that the RAA(s) have been addressed or, if not, the program will be given two more years to resolve the issues. For any RAA(s) that have not been resolved, a second Interim Report will be due to the LAAB on or before four years from the receipt of the Action Letter. If the RAAs are not successfully resolved or, in the case of longer term issues, substantial and verifiable progress has not been made at that time (after four years from the Action Letter) then the program may be moved to provisional status, it may be suspended, or in some cases the program's accreditation may be revoked.

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2025. Accordingly, the BSLA program is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2025.

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the visiting team report, and the program's response to the report.

Enclosed is a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in an interim report) and an Interim Reporting template. 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 "Rodney Swink". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rodney" and last name "Swink" clearly distinguishable.

Rodney Swink, FASLA, PLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Eligio David Méndez Pagán, Chief Academic Officer

**Universidad Ana G. Mendez
BSLA Program
LAAB Meeting
August 2-3, 2019**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. The campus, college and program must develop a website for students, parents and the public that goes beyond accreditation public disclosure requirements. It is critical to the program's ability to reach students interested in pursuing a professional education in Landscape Architecture as well as providing other constituencies including prospective faculty, employers and benefactors an accurate and complete description of the program (Standard 1).
2. The planning and construction of the new building to house the EIDA are being developed at the university level. The design of this building in concert with the school, and the construction of this building are essential to the continued health and growth of the program and should be implemented as soon as is possible (Standard 7).

Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board

Interim Report

Date:

Section 1.

Name of Institution:

Name of Department:

Name of Program:

Date of Decision Letter:

Section 2.

Recommendation Affecting Accreditation: (Describe verbatim the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in the Decision Letter that is the subject of this Report and attach the Decision Letter. If Decision Letter identified more than one (1) Recommendation Affecting Accreditation, complete an Interim Report for each Recommendation.)

Section 3.

Action Taken by Program: (Describe the action taken by the Program to address the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in Section 2 of this Report. Attach any appropriate documentation that supports the action taken by the Program)