

29 May 2014

Ms. Cassandra R. Pair
Director of Accreditation

Dear Ms. Pair.

Thank you for forwarding the VTR Final draft in your e-mail of May 23 and for offering the opportunity to respond to the report.

We take no exception to the report and thank the team members for their diligence in closely evaluating the student work and supporting documentation in the team room.

We agree with item 3.A. Coordination and Documentation of Student Outcomes as a cause of concern and believe that the inconsistent outcomes across multiple studio sections are the key challenge to our faculty and leadership. The move to totally satisfying all SPC's within the Master of Architecture program began in the Academic year 2012/13 as noted in the APR and in some cases course evidence was based on the first cycle of these changes.

Our faculty teams in the core studio courses, ARCH 605, 606 and 607 are improving in their ability to meet the SPC's assigned to their respective courses, to develop new teaching models like the inclusion of technical faculty in the studio environment, to integrate the broad range of content making up the SPC's, and to do so with a focus on high quality student work. That said, our internal evaluation identified a number of areas where we will be improving consistency across course sections, specifically:

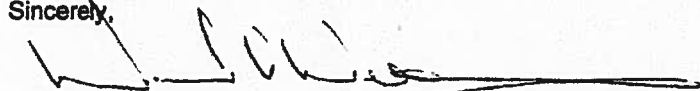
- The development of an outline specification for the project in ARCH 607
- The inclusion of basic building systems concerns during the programming, schematic and early design development stages in ARCH 606 and 607:
- Closer mentoring of students in regard to life safety issues; dead end corridors, enclosed egress stairs in ARCH 605, 606 and 607:
- The development of a cost estimate for the project in ARCH 607 and a
- Renewed focus on plans, sections and details necessary for technical documentation in ARCH 607
- The collaboration with allied design professions in ARCH 605

We will make these improvements by:

- Adjusting the composition of faculty teams in ARCH 605, 606, and 607 the core studio courses, to position faculty with deeper insight into professional issues in those courses:
- Having the department head and associate department head meet with studio faculty prior to each semester to clarify the SPC and curricular expectations for the studio:
- Having the department head and associate department head participate in midterm reviews to observe compliance with the SPC's and curricular issues assigned to the course, and follow up with faculty for adjustments prior to the semester ending:
- Evaluating the outcomes from these core studios annually and adjusting faculty assignments, expectations and curriculum to meet the SPC's.

We again thank the visiting team and the NAAB leadership for their careful evaluation of our program and look forward to presenting updated outcomes resulting from our action plans at your pleasure.

Sincerely,



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