

**University of Louisiana at Lafayette**

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**School Of Architecture and Design**

Robert McKinney, AIA, Director, School of Architecture and Design

Last Accreditation Visit March 2-5, 2008

**Part II Narrative Report**

From most recent VTR March 5, 2008:

**1.4. Conditions/Criteria Not Met**

*For each Condition/Criterion Not Met, please include the Team Comments from the last site visit along with narrative from program on*

**Visiting Team Report March 5, 2008**

**Conditions/Criteria Not Met**

**3. Public Information**

**6. Human Resources**

**8. Physical Resources**

**Visiting Team Report March 5, 2008**

**3. Public Information**

***“To ensure an understanding of the accredited professional degree by the public, all schools offering an accredited degree program or any candidacy program must include in their catalogs and promotional media the exact language found in the NAAB Conditions for Accreditation, Appendix A. To ensure an understanding of the body of knowledge and skills that constitute a professional education in architecture, the school must inform faculty and incoming students of how to access the NAAB Conditions for Accreditation.”***

**Met Not Met**

**[ ] [X]**

**Condition 3, Public Information, is considered “Not Met” based upon the following: The information provided in the SoA/D’s printed public information is not in compliance with the prescribed information required by the NAAB in its Conditions for Accreditation. Specifically the SoA/D’s information excludes the “Doctor of Architecture” as a NAAB accredited degree. The team was presented evidence that the university had been notified of the discrepancy along with the correct language to be added into the 2009-2011 documents. While the printed information will be delayed until the next university printing, the program director was able to have the information corrected on the university and SoA/D’s websites during the visit.”**

**University Narrative Addressing 3. Public Information**

The correct Public Information Statement has been added to the current Undergraduate Bulletin and the information has been corrected on the websites. The current undergraduate catalog

may be found <http://bulletin.louisiana.edu/UN/84/Bulletin2009.pdf>. The correct information can be found on the SoAD website <http://soad.louisiana.edu/programs.html>.

### Visiting Team Report March 5, 2008

#### 6. Human Resources

*“The accredited degree program must demonstrate that it provides adequate human resources for a professional degree program in architecture, including a sufficient faculty complement, an administrative head with enough time for effective administration, and adequate administrative, technical, and faculty support staff. Student enrollment in and scheduling of design studios must ensure adequate time for an effective tutorial exchange between the teacher and the student. The total teaching load should allow faculty members adequate time to pursue research, scholarship, and practice to enhance their professional development.”*

Met Not Met

Condition 6, Human Resources, is considered “Not Met” based upon the following: The Master of Architecture provides inadequate human resources for a professional degree program. The faculty complement of the SoA/D is comprised of twenty full-time faculty members; however, only eleven are in the architecture program. One of these positions is a program director’s position that serves as the administrative head. While the Team recognizes the Program Director is an effective administrator with outstanding time management skills, his administrative responsibilities for the SoA/D go beyond those required by the Architecture program. In addition to the Architecture program, the Program Director administers and coordinates the Interior Design, Fashion (Design, Industrial Design and Merchandising programs). The Team feels this work load is excessive and for the Program Director to effectively administer and manage the Architecture program as it moves forward, there must be additional support staff added for the Program Director beyond clerical staff.

The faculty members are highly organized, committed and passionate about teaching architecture to their students; however, the total teaching load of the faculty members does not allow faculty members adequate time to pursue research, scholarship and practice to enhance their professional development. The university has identified criteria for faculty to pursue for an “ideal professor” in the area of teaching (60%), research (20%), and service (20%), and has indicated a workload track for architecture professors. However, few faculty members have had the opportunity to take sabbaticals, had adequate time to prepare for the ARE (a goal established by the SoA/D), or had time for personal research. The Team determined most faculty were experiencing difficulty managing this myriad of academic commitments, especially with family obligations.

As noted earlier in this report, the architecture program has 269 undergraduate and graduate students. Based upon these 2007 student statistics, the composite faculty/student ratio for the architecture program is 1:16.8.

Adequate time for effective tutorial exchange between the teacher and student is evident by the university’s policy to have the average architecture faculty member advise between 22 – 35 students per semester. The university has also made a strong commitment to advising by offering fifty \$1,000 advising awards to faculty

**each year. Fifty percent of the architecture faculty have received advising awards for outstanding advising.**

**The dean of the college is actively involved in the architecture program and provides significant support, advocacy and leadership to the program. He is very approachable and accessible to the students, staff, faculty and other administrators.**

**While the Team appreciates the efforts made to address the Human Resources concerns expressed in the 2002 VTR, inadequate administrative support for the Program Director as well the program faculty remains a continuing deficiency as noted in the previous 2002 VTR.”**

### ***University Narrative Addressing 6. Human Resources***

The School of Architecture and Design received a total of three additional faculty lines beginning with the 2008-2009 year. One line was targeted for a minority hire in architecture and the other two lines teach courses in the architecture curriculum as well as courses in other programs within the School. The first line, which is a tenure-track line, was filled with a minority licensed architect with over 30 years of practice experience and previous adjunct teaching experience. The second line is at the rank of Lecturer was filled with a licensed architect. This faculty is also a licensed architect with over 30 years of professional experience and 14 years of academic experience teaching architecture and interior design. He teaches courses in architecture and interior design. The third new line is an assistant professor in the architecture program with a PhD in Business who teaches courses on marketing and management principles for architecture and other curriculums in the program. This responds to a curriculum change made a few years ago which added a requirement for a marketing or management elective to all the curriculums in the School. As the changes were implemented, it became clear that to take full advantage of the requirement for students to learn the connection between marketing, management and the architecture and design fields, it was beneficial to offer specially designed courses which this new line permits. This position has also fostered collaboration between the College of Business and the School of Architecture and Design.

These new faculty lines have addressed the issue of faculty service loads and student faculty ratios in the studios. Particularly at the first-year level, the above new faculty have enabled additional sections with more appropriate enrollment levels for studio courses. This change at the first-year level has reduced the program's overall studio student to faculty ratio to 1:15.4.

The Director initiated a study of elective courses and discovered that 50% of the students were completing the requirements for architecture electives through special project courses that all faculty were teaching as overloads. As a result, fewer special project courses are being offered to encourage students to register for elective courses that are typically part of the normal teaching load. The goal is to develop elective courses in areas of student interest. Our aim is to better serve the student while reducing the number of special project courses which will minimize faculty teaching overloads while giving faculty opportunities to pursue specific interests as part of their normal teaching load. In fall 2009, a new course elective on Louisiana Architecture was established, in spring 2010 a new elective course on BIM was created, and in spring 2011 a new Marketing and Management for Designers course will be offered.

Faculty have had an opportunity to take sabbaticals. Associate Professor Michael McClure received a Rome Prize and the University funded a sabbatical for the 2008-2009 year.

Currently, due to funding reductions, sabbaticals across campus since 2009 have not been granted.

Within the past year, several of the faculty continue to take the Architecture Registration Exam and Associate Professor Corey Saft successfully completed the ARE in the 2008-2009 year. Three other faculty have initiated their IDP record, and anticipate beginning to take the ARE shortly. It has been identified that an existing University program to provide Summer Research Grants for faculty during their tenure-track period may be used to provide support to faculty who are preparing for the ARE. The School continues to encourage faculty to pursue licensure to foster and increase understanding of the profession.

In 2009-2010 year, the Dean's Office expanded with several new positions. After a national search, Dr. Margaret Kennedy-Dygas was appointed as the first Associate Dean. Her job includes coordination of a new strategic plan for the College, coordination of new program development, faculty development and College communications. She organized a College faculty retreat to kick off the strategic planning chairs and chairs the colleges strategic planning process. She is editor of the new COA eNewsletter which is an internal instrument to communicate to all COA faculty about faculty achievements and activities as well as upcoming events and deadlines. She is also a member of the COA Leadership Team that meets weekly with the Dean. The Assistant Dean, Lori Crain, continues to coordinate the Student Services Office as well as serving as our Graduation Coordinator for the COA. She is also our Advising Coordinator for the COA and provides training for faculty and staff. A new position for Development was placed in the dean's suite to assist with fund-raising. Her time is shared with others in the University until additional development officers can be hired. Finally, another Administrative Assistant has been hired to assist with workflow and paperwork in the dean's office. Before these positions were created, most of these tasks, if they were being accomplished, were being done by faculty and staff at the departmental level. This has greatly assisted the departments and department heads/directors, including the Director of the SOAD.

The Director initiated a series of task forces in fall 2009 including one on Governance of the School with the goals of increasing faculty and student participation.

The Director is currently the Executive Officer of the Faculty Senate and as such a member of the University Council.

#### Visiting Team Report March 5, 2008

##### 8. Physical Resources

***“The accredited degree program must provide the physical resources appropriate for a professional degree program in architecture, including design studio space for the exclusive use of each student in a studio class; lecture and seminar space to accommodate both didactic and interactive learning; office space for the exclusive use of each full-time faculty member; and related instructional support space. The facilities must also be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and applicable building codes.*”**

Met Not Met

Condition 8, Physical Resources, is considered “Not Met” based upon the following: Fletcher Hall houses the SoA/D, with the architecture program being the largest program. The building was originally built to house the School of Art and

Design, is owned by the University, and is shared with the programs in Industrial Design, Interior Design and Visual Arts. Architecture studios are also held off campus in the Community Design Workshop space located in the Postal Square Building in downtown Lafayette. This building is not owned by the university and is slated for demolition to make way for the Rosa Parks Transportation Center. A replacement for that facility will have to be secured to continue the work of the CDW, allowing it to serve the local Lafayette community.

Fletcher Hall contains the following amenities:

- A wood-shop of adequate size, two spray booths and a photo lab.
- A twenty-one station computer lab and a dedicated twenty station architectural computer lab are located on the second floor and are shared by the sister programs housed in this building. Printing is facilitated by one fine arts printer, several small format color printers and two three-dimensional printers. A professional printing service in the vicinity of the college is the preferred method of printing for students because the school's current plotting capacity is inadequate to accommodate student needs at peak times. Students are required to provide their own computer but the signal strength of the wireless internet access is very weak throughout the building.
- A kiln area outside the building and a metal workshop at a separate building nearby are available to architecture students as well as other departments.
- Faculty offices are provided for all faculty and are of sufficient size.

Fletcher Hall was built in 1976 and is no longer adequate to support the mission of the SoA/D. Fletcher Hall deficiencies include the following:

1. The building envelope has deteriorated with roofs, terraces and walls leaking, MEP & fire safety systems are in dire need of update, as well as acoustic and lighting deficiencies.
2. There is a shortage of classrooms, making the scheduling of courses a challenge every semester.
3. The first-year class studio space is not adequate to meet the present needs of providing a design studio desk work space, storage locker space and support facilities to house and teach the entering class.
4. Second and third year class studios are similarly very crowded and not conducive towards an acceptable learning environment. Fourth-year studio is also situated in less than acceptable design space with overcrowded conditions.
5. Fifth year classes are currently housed off-campus at the Community Design Workshop which offers adequate space but is windowless and not ideally situated to foster interaction with the lower year students. This space will not be available to the program once the Rosa Parks transportation center is under construction and the university will need to secure a replacement.

A major addition and renovation project is planned for Fletcher Hall, and the university president indicated he was optimistic the budget surplus of the state

would allow the project to proceed. The state legislature will convene in special session within a couple of weeks of this visit to develop funding plans for state projects and Fletcher Hall is high on the list of projects being considered. If Fletcher Hall's funding is approved, the SoA/D will also have reason to be optimistic about its future building needs. While approval of funding will be a major step forward, the process to ultimately move into new and renovated space could be many years off."

***University Narrative Addressing 8. Physical Resources***

The University administration was successful during the 2009 Legislative Session in having Fletcher Hall put on the State's Emergency Repairs list and funding was allocated for the project. In August 2009, the following RFP was released:

**Fletcher Hall Exterior Repairs, Planning and Construction, University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Main Campus), Project No. 19-640-09-01, Part 01.**

This project consists of emergency repairs to a 71,000 square foot three-story building constructed in 1976 which currently houses the University Arts and Architecture Department. The project will remove the existing deteriorated exterior plaster wall finish system and replace all with a new exterior wall cladding or finish system; providing a cover over the existing three story courtyard space and conditioning for the entire interior space, replace or repair the existing terrazzo walk flooring, replace the wood ceilings at the three floor balconies at the courtyard and other needed repairs to floors, walls, ceilings, lights, doors and other damaged architectural and engineering elements of the building. In addition, the project will include the planning and construction of approximately 10,000 square feet of new conditioned studio space to replace the open decks at the second floor level. In the event asbestos or other hazardous materials are encountered, then testing, abatement and clearances will be by separate contracts between the Owner and qualified entities. The designer shall prepare and submit all required drawings to Facility Planning and Control in Auto-CAD Release 2000 and/or latest Release. Drawings shall follow the format specified in the "Instructions to Designers for Auto-CAD Drawings Submittal." The funds available for construction are approximately \$3,500,000.00 with a fee of approximately \$345,205.00. Contract design time is 210 consecutive calendar days; including 70 days review time. Thereafter, liquidated damages in the amount of \$175.00 per day will be assessed. Further information is available from Mr. Douglas Lee - ULS, 1201 N. Third Street, 7th Floor-Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA. (225) 342-6950.

The architect, James Ziler, AIA, has completed the design development phase of the project. Exploratory demolition has been completed. During this process the areas in severe deterioration were removed, the conditions of the framing assessed and repaired as necessary in these areas, and temporary envelope installed in the tested areas. This work will allow the completion of the construction documents. It is anticipated that construction should begin in 6-9 months which will entail completely replacing the building envelope with a system of brick masonry and insulated metal panels. As stated in the RFP, the project will add approximately 10,000 square feet to the building. It has been determined that building on top of the second floor terraces is the best way to address the constant problem of leaks. A major portion of this new space will be dedicated to the School of Architecture and Design, and specifically the architecture program. It is anticipated this new space will allow the graduate studio which has been housed downtown for the past 10 years to return to Fletcher Hall. Once the above project

is complete, it will provide space for the Community Design Workshop and Building Institute. In the meantime, the program is working with the administration to identify space on campus to relocate the courses for the start of the spring 2011 semester. The space needs for the graduate studio will partially be addressed through the creation of a new University research center on Coastal Sustainability in which the architecture program will participate and the program will have studio space for classes in Abdalla Hall located in the University's Research Park.

Students, as a component of the Sites and Sustainability course, developed a plan to reorganize the design studios to better provide work and storage spaces. As a result of the new organization more students especially at the foundation design level are working in the building outside of class time further developing the studio community.

The program is currently working on a Student Technology Enhancement Program Grant proposal for a University-installed wireless network in Fletcher Hall, which has been identified as the best solution to address the weak signal strength of the current wireless network.

### **1.5. Causes of Concern**

*For each Condition/Criterion Not Met, please include the Team Comments from the last site visit along with narrative from program on*

#### **Visiting Team Report March 5, 2008**

**“Faculty recruitment from minorities and under-represented groups continues to elude the program. Targeted recruitment efforts have been foiled by a variety of reasons, not the least of which has been a lower than average faculty salary scale. In 2007-08 the state legislature allocated a significant budget increase to UL Lafayette. The university president has used this budget to increase and equalize faculty salaries. The architecture program intends to advertise for a targeted minority faculty hire in academic year 2008-09. Given the school administration’s and faculty’s conviction and commitment to promote gender and minority equity, as well as equality within its faculty ranks, failure to appropriately address this inequity would demonstrate a grave cause for concern.”**

#### **University Narrative**

The University administration did fund and conduct a search, and a new minority faculty was hired for the 2008-2009 year. As a licensed architect with 30 plus years of practice experience, he teaches the professional practice courses and third-year design studio. He has proven to make valuable contributions to the architecture faculty. In addition, the faculty are working to develop a strategy and policy to promote equity amongst the faculty. This is one of the issues currently being addressed by the School’s new Governance Task Force.

#### **Changes in Program since last NAAB visit**

##### **Curricular Changes**

As previously stated, the program is developing its offering of elective courses, adding courses in marketing and management principles for architects and designers, Louisiana Architecture History, and building information modeling.

Recent legislation was passed requiring, with few exceptions, all undergraduate programs to be 120 credit hours. The architecture program has developed a new Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies undergraduate curriculum reducing from 128 to 124 credit hours, and the Masters of Architecture to 45 credit hours. The new undergraduate curriculum will begin with the 2011-2012 academic year and the new Masters of Architecture curriculum with the 2015-2016 academic year. At the same time, as a part of the University’s Quality Enhancement Program, (QEP) the university is phasing in two required courses for the general education core UNIV 100 Cajun Connection which introduces students to the skills required to be successful university students and UNIV 200 Information Technology to ensure students have an understanding of academic learning technology.

The program is also making adjustments to the focus of some studios based on the success of its entry in the 2009 Solar Decathlon. The University’s entry, Team BeauSoleil, lead by Associate Professor Geoff Gjertson, won first place in Market Viability and won the Peoples Choice Award. The design/build studio option offered in the last semester of fourth-year architecture is being moved to the first semester of the graduate program ARCH 501 and will continue to focus on issues of regionalism and sustainability. This allows for design/build to become one of the research focuses of the program and a concentration at the graduate level to

develop and expand the graduate program. This also allows ARCH 402 to focus on competitions incorporating what was gained from research for the Rome Prize.

The Solar Decathlon project has raised the level of understanding of sustainable issues throughout the program, University, and Community. Before the solar decathlon a new course, ARCH 441 Site and Sustainable Design, replaced a previous course ARCH 222 Paradigms of Architecture II. As the change phased in, this course has been offered as an elective and for fall 2009 was a required course. In addition, the faculty have been actively integrating issues of sustainability throughout the curriculum.

Faculty have also begun a Studieaux Wetlands course to investigate the issues between architecture and intervention in the coastal wetlands of Louisiana. The work of the studio was part of an article in the fall 2010 Journal of Architectural Education. This studio will also develop an integration with the University's new Coastal Sustainability Center.

#### Finances

Due to State Legislative budget shortfalls, the University did initiate budget reductions midyear for 2008-2009, in 2009-2010 AY, midyear in 2009-2010, the end of 2009-2010, and the fall 2010-2011. Additional midyear cuts are anticipated in 2010-2011, and for the 2011-2012 year. The results have been no merit raises for faculty for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, a 10% budget cut to non-personal budgets including the School's operating budgets, and one vacant line in the School was frozen. Faculty receiving Professorships have had the stipends reduced. Overall thus far, the cuts have not affected the program's ability to meet the learning needs of students.

As one of four publicly funded architecture programs in Louisiana, the Board of Regents initiated a review of all architecture programs in 2009-2010 in the state to determine the feasibility of maintaining four publicly funded programs. This issue is also being reviewed by the Governor's Commission on Higher Education which is currently studying the allocation of graduate programs within the state. The Board of Regents currently has suspended the review of architecture programs in the state.

#### Faculty

The faculty continues to perform at an amazing level of achievement in teaching, research, service, and practice. Associate Professor Michael McClure received the Rome Prize for 2008-2009 and completed a one-year sabbatical in Rome, Italy. Associate Professor Geoff Gjertson lead a team of faculty, including Assistant Professors Kari Smith, Dan Burkett, and Denise John from architecture, and Professor Brian Powell from Interior Design and students in a very successful entry in the 2009 Solar Decathlon. The project known as BeauSoleil received a First Place Award for Market Viability, and received the Peoples Choice Award. Mr. Gjertson also received the University's Ray Authement Teaching Excellence Award. Professor Robert McKinney and students received a 2009 Peterson Prize Honorable Mention for a project documented for the Historic American Building Survey. Professor Hector LaSala and Associate Professor Corey Saft were selected to present a paper at the AIA Walter Wagner Forum. Assistant Professors Kari Smith and Dan Burkett placed second in the Open Source House competition and the house is being constructed in Ghana. Associate Professor Corey Saft has designed the first house that is Passive House certified in the South, the house is LEED Platinum and has been published in numerous journals and books including Scientific American, USA Today and is featured in the book, Recreating the American Home: The Passive House Approach.