Minutes of meeting: Undergraduate Council, FAMU School of Architecture

Date: November 23, 2011; 11:00 – 12:15 PM
Present: Enn Ots, Chair; Ronald Lumpkin, Lalo Robles; Gretchen Miller

The agenda for the meeting included a review of last year’s work of the Council, followed by a status report by Lumpkin on changes to the program over the past year. The final part of the meeting covered potential new business.

A. Issues from last year:

Internship:

The members of the Council were in agreement regarding the desirability of a required internship for B. Arch students. Concerns that were raised included:

1. The introduction of a required internship should occur only if the School is prepared to put in place the necessary policies, staffing and networking mechanisms for it to succeed.
2. The interns should be paid to avoid exploitation of students.
3. Student internship experiences must be meaningful, requiring a commitment on the part of the employer.
4. The establishment of a formal program along the lines of the one at U. of Cincinnati would be most desirable. It would require partnerships with major firms across the country.
5. As firms are struggling to keep their current employees due to the current state of the economy, it will be difficult for student to find paid internships.

Although not discussed at the meeting, it is the Chair’s opinion that appointing a permanent internship coordinator whose responsibilities would include the establishment of the necessary internship opportunities, as well as serving as the teacher of record for the internship course, is the next step if the faculty vote to make internship a condition of B.Arch graduation. The Coordinator should be on board well before internships are required. The program should be run on a trial basis before it becomes a graduation requirement.

Intern Development Program (IDP):

It was the feeling of the Council that student participation in the IDP should be strongly encouraged, but not required. It was felt that IDP was the responsibility of the profession and NCARB, not the SOA. Concern was raised about the cost to the student and the lack of available IDP experiences for most students.

B. New business

Curriculum status report:

Ron Lumpkin distributed the current B.S. in Architectural Studies curriculum: Changes that have occurred over the recent past are:

1. History 1 is no longer accepted as meeting the FAMU humanities requirement, therefore there is a 3 credit hour humanities elective scheduled in the spring semester of 2\textsuperscript{nd} year;
2. Computer class are distributed over three 1 credit hour classes in lower division;
3. ET 1, 2 and 3 have been consolidated into one 4\textsuperscript{th} year class, Environmental Systems in Architecture (ARC 4610). Other related classes include Intro to Tech (ARC 2470), and the graduate & professional level New Tech of Enclosed Bldgs. (ARC 6624);
4. Structures has been reduced to 2 classes (ARC 2501 & ARC 3551);

Other curriculum changes include a required BCN or Urban Design elective in 3rd year and a General Education elective in 4th year. (See the curriculum posted on the SOA web site)

**B.S. in Business Administration with a Concentration in Facility Management:**

The curriculum for the above new degree program was distributed for the information of the Council. As the SOA has already submitted the curriculum for approval by the University Curriculum Committee, the SOA Undergraduate Council and the rest of the faculty appear to not be involved in the development of this program.

Concern was raised regarding the appropriateness of requiring Design 1.1 and 1.2, as these are basic design studios and not related to the facility management skill set. Courses in space planning and Design 3.1 would be more useful to the graduate.

**Other business:**

Members of the council raised the following issues:

1. The reinstatement of field trips and the introduction of other important enhancement programs such as an off-campus studio and visiting distinguished faculty should a priority for the advancement of the School. It was felt that without these enhancements the School lacks distinction;

2. The support of the shop through the introduction of a lab fee will allow the shop to remain an asset to the school. Eventually the shop should incorporate a rapid prototyping facility to remain relevant to the profession;

3. In order to remain current with the trends in schools of architecture, the design/build class should be institutionalized and expanded into a multi-semester commitment to service projects involving permanent construction similar to the Rural Studio efforts;

4. There appears to be a decline in the quality of freshmen student. Efforts should be made to better screen the aptitudes and qualification of applicants.

5. There was considerable discussion about the exit requirement of 2.0 GPA for BS students. It was felt that the exit requirement should be the same as the entry requirement for upper division acceptance (2.5 GPA).

**The next meeting of the Council was scheduled for December 15th, after the faculty meeting.**