Florida A&M University
School of Architecture

Focused Evaluation Team Report

Bachelor of Architecture (151 undergraduate credit hours)
Master of Architecture
(Path A: preprofessional degree in architecture [121 credit hours]
  plus 55 graduate credit hours)
(Path B: undergraduate degree [121 credit hours] plus 87 graduate credit hours)

The National Architectural Accrediting Board
2008

The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), established in 1940, is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture. Because most state registration boards in the United States require any applicant for licensure to have graduated from an NAAB-accredited program, obtaining such a degree is an essential aspect of preparing for the professional practice of architecture.
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I. Summary of Team Findings

Team Comments

The Team was satisfied with the responses to our Conference Call questioning and the responses to the Causes of Concern which were the focus of this Focused Evaluation. Our satisfaction with the Conference Call responses was reinforced by the NAAB Response to the Florida A&M University 2007 Annual Report and the Florida A&M University 2008 Focused Evaluation and Annual Report.

We were impressed with the quality and completeness of the Florida A&M University 2008 Annual Report.
II. Compliance with the Conditions for Accreditation

Program Response to the NAAB Focused Criteria

Schools must respond to the interests of the collateral organizations that make up the NAAB as set forth by this edition of the NAAB Conditions for Accreditation. Each school is expected to address these interests consistent with its scholastic identity and mission.

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.

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Per the NAAB Response to Florida A&M University 2007 Annual Report, Condition 3: Public Information has been satisfied. The 2008 Annual Report also reinforces the compliance by the University with Condition 3.

10. Financial Resources

An accredited degree program must have access to sufficient institutional support and financial resources to meet its needs and be comparable in scope to those available to meet the needs of other professional programs within the institution.

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The Team understands the recent and current state-wide financial constraints due to the global economy. However, the School has been able to direct a significant amount of money to School technology since the last Team Visit. Although mandated cuts have affected the overall School budget, the School has been resourceful to continue hiring and aggressively pursue the necessary tools to try to satisfy the concerns of the 2006 Visiting Team.

Still of concern are the following areas outlined in the 2006 Team Visit: a decrease in $/FTE and a decrease in $/student; a decrease in expense budget and academic support; and decrease in capital outlay. There is still a concern relative to comparative budgets with other professional programs.
12. Professional Degrees and Curriculum

The NAAB accredits the following professional degree programs: the Bachelor of Architecture (B. Arch.), the Master of Architecture (M. Arch.), and the Doctor of Architecture (D. Arch.). The curricular requirements for awarding these degrees must include professional studies, general studies, and electives. Schools offering the degrees B. Arch., M. Arch., and/or D. Arch. are strongly encouraged to use these degree titles exclusively with NAAB-accredited professional degree programs.

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This Condition has now been met through the reorganization and expansion of general education credits (45). The general education credits NAAB requirement has been met through a revised curriculum which also meets the state's degree requirements.
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III. Appendices

Appendix A: The Focused Evaluation Team

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Appendix B: The Visit Agenda

The "Visit" was accomplished through a Conference Call on October 16, 2008. Those included in the Call were Dean Rodner Wright, Assistant Dean Andrew Chin, Curt Lamb representing the Academy, and Bob Boynton representing the Profession. The Call lasted approximately 40 minutes and primarily focused on Condition 10: Financial Resources.

Dean Wright gave us a history of the last three years and the University administration changes. A permanent president has been hired, the University has come off of a university accreditation probation (probation based on University finances), and an overall reduction in University funding of 20% to date due to economic conditions of the State of Florida. Another possible 10% cut-back in funds by the governor was announced this date.

The School has recently had four retirements which helped accommodate salaries of new hires. There were two new hires last year and the School is ready to advertise for four new positions.

The University has not restricted the School's use of their budget which has allowed them to be very resourceful. The recent cutbacks have not affected salaries, required staff reduction, nor frozen new hires.

The University-wide enrollment under the interim president (3 years) dropped approximately 8%. There was no drop in enrollment in the School during the interim president's tenure. Since the new president took office (6 months), the University enrollment has increased approximately 7%.

The School has a good working relationship and support from the president and the provost according to the Dean. The level of funding for the School is "pretty well" relative to other University programs.
IV. Report Signatures

Respectfully submitted by,

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Representing the Profession

[Signature]
Curt Lamb, Ph.D., M. Arch
Representing the Academy
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