

APR Report Response
Landscape Architecture Program
June, 2009

The Landscape Architecture Program, which started in 2000, went through its first UNM Academic Program Review in April, 2009.

There were two reviewers on the team: **Bruce Thomson** from the School of Engineering at UNM And **Karen Hanna** from the College of Environmental Design at Cal Poly, Pomona.

The review was insightful, thorough and fair, and resulted in a number of observations and suggestions that will be important to address as the program looks toward its next phase of growth and development over the next five years.

The process of developing specific strategies in response to the APR report and other planning issues will begin when the two new tenure track faculty appointments start in the program in the fall, 2009. Accordingly, the responses below are general.

Develop areas of focus for an agenda of research, scholarship, and creative activities to be used by faculty and students alike to encourage the LAP to develop an identity of academic accomplishment.

We recognize this as being very important. In selecting the two new faculty we tried to balance the diverse needs of the program with the need to have a strong program focus to which all of the faculty can contribute. The program already has strength in design and theory, and with the two new hires this strength has been increased significantly. Our discussions will center on the specific areas that we pursue in our research plan.

Strategize about the means to support faculty and student engagement in research, scholarship, and creative activities.

We already have students engaging in research activities in that graduate students assist faculty in their research, and are hired on research grants and contracts. Each full time faculty currently has a minimum of 1 graduate assistant to support their research and teaching. We are now discussing strategies for mentoring and supporting new faculty. These will be implemented in Fall 2009.

The LAP, in concert with the School of Architecture, should conduct a strategic planning exercise to update its strategic plan.

While the LAP strategic plan has been reviewed and updated in the last five years, it is now an appropriate time to engage in a new strategic planning process to set the direction for the next five years. Our goals and objectives are, and will be, in concert with the School's strategic plan. Strategic planning will be scheduled for spring 2010.

It is suggested that the LAP improve its interaction with other departments and programs outside the School of Architecture and Planning at UNM.

The LAP should work to develop an externally funded research program and should seek collaboration with other programs to develop interdisciplinary research activities of a regional and national significance.

This is an excellent suggestion, and one that we have thought about. The lack of full time faculty and the significant time commitment required to build the LA program has resulted in an inward focus. Arguably, it is now time to re-focus, and to begin to look beyond our school.

There are a number of potential programs that we could begin to work with both in research and teaching, and a series of meetings with program directors and department chairs in units in which there is potential for alliances will be set up in Fall 2009.

Students should be encouraged to take electives outside the school to further deepen their knowledge of topics such as water resources, geography, sustainability, and construction management.

Possible elective opportunities in these and other units will be researched and a list will be developed and distributed to all LA students

Dr. Simon should be strongly encouraged to apply for promotion to the rank of Full Professor. This application is being started in the summer of 2009, for submission in Fall 2009.

Examine the role and work load of the program Director

Discussions have already begun with the Dean to identify clearly the responsibilities of the Associate Dean, and to ensure that these fall within reasonable limits.

The Director has also looked at his teaching load, which has been a full or almost full load, and has made appropriate reductions for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Develop a succession plan for future leadership of the program

With the two new tenure track hires the LA program will now have three full time faculty, including the Director, dedicated to the program, and one full time faculty, 85% of whose time is dedicated to the certificate program in Historic Preservation and Regionalism.

Indeed, there is a gap between the senior faculty (the Director) and the new entry level faculty that makes succession difficult to plan. A solution to this would be a mid-level faculty appointment, and this will depend on the Provost's office.

Prepared by: Alf Simon June 2009