

School of Architecture | The University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
Program Director: Christopher Jarrett  
Last Accreditation visit: February 2010

**PART II – NARRATIVE REPORT 2012**

**SECTION 1.4 – CONDITIONS NOT MET**

**Bachelor of Architecture Program**

**Master of Architecture Program**

**13.14 – Accessibility (ability)**

Ability to design both site and building to accommodate individuals with varying physical abilities.

*Although the program demonstrates improvement in the level of student understanding of accessibility issues in the design of site and building conditions, the work does not consistently display the required ability level.*

- During FY 12, the School of Architecture continued to address this unmet condition through hiring a new adjunct faculty member (AIA practicing professional) that served as a co-teacher the year before. The SoA Director met with both the Associate Director, and Undergraduate and Graduate Program Coordinators to ensure progress of addressing accessibility measures, building upon the three successful action steps enacted last year:
- Step One: Review ADA Law. Better understand definitions of persons protected by the ADA; review the 4 major federal laws that require accessibility in the built environment, including 1) the ABA, 2) the Fair Housing Act, 3) section 504 of the Rehab Act and 4) the ADA.
- Step Two: Bring in a consultant for a second year. Jennifer Perry, Compliance Specialist of the United Spinal Association, held a workshop for the second year in a row on accessibility. The workshop was directed at students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year and 5<sup>th</sup> Year [comprehensive design] studios of the undergraduate program and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year [comprehensive design] studios of the graduate program. The Workshop was sponsored by five architectural firms in Charlotte: HDR, Perkins+Will, Little, LS3P, and FreemanWhite. Workshop stressed that the disability population is growing and accessible features in the built environment are critical as a part of good design for all; emphasized to students to think critically about accessibility requirements in design work - not just about “meeting the code”; explained design requirements in ADA are rooted in a civil rights law; reviewed with students studies of human dimensions and the range of physical abilities of the differently-abled including the effects of auditory and sight impairment; demonstrated to students what to look for if they were doing a site review of a building to determine accessibility compliance with ADA-AG–Accessibility Guidelines.
- Step Three: Develop Exercises. Increase evidence of compliance through analysis and design diagrams, programming, design, and development of comprehensive projects in undergraduate and graduate studios. For the past two years, students performed a site and building assessment for accessibility compliance on their own design studio project.

**13.25 Construction Cost Control (understanding)**

Understanding of the fundamentals of building cost, life-cycle cost, and construction estimating.

*Although the program provided evidence of a class speaker presenting information about Construction Cost Control through handouts in the Professional Practice course (Arch 4112/5112), the level of understanding is not evident in student exercises, exams, assignment results, or in other courses.*

- This unmet condition continues to receive focused attention. SoA Director continued to meet with key faculty to review unmet condition and followed up with three action steps.

- Step One: Update curriculum. This past year a new introductory lecture on construction cost estimating and cost management was integrated in the syllabus of Professional Practice; control source material in Professional Practice, and implement student exercises.
- Step Two: Dick Perlmutter, AIA, with over 25 years of professional experience, develop construction cost control exercises that were implemented in our Professional Practice course. Specific questions on cost control were integrated into the exam.
- Step Three: Bring in a consultant. Kevin Turner of The Freelon Group delivered a presentation with a required reading from the Handbook of Professional Practice, Ch. 9.3 on Construction Cost Management.

## **> SECTION 1.5 – CAUSES OF CONCERN**

### **A. Accessibility**

*The two previous visits (1998 and 2004) have also found this criterion to be not met and there is a cause of concern. See comments above.*

### **B. Leadership Transition**

*Since this visit is the first to occur after the transition to a new structure as the College of Art and Architecture from the previously independent College of Architecture, and occurred 6 months after the hiring of Director Jarrett, the team encourages the school to pay attention to an ongoing leadership transition in a way that maintains the same independence and quality of the school as before the transition to the College of Art and Architecture*

The school continues to pay attention to the ongoing leadership transition in a way that maintains the same independence and quality of the school before the transition to the College of Art and Architecture. Dean Ken Lambla continues to demonstrate a serious commitment to the School with full budget control and program planning to Director Jarrett, and actively seeks to support its programming and professional development trajectory.

### **C. Financial Resources**

*The team underscores that the school's financial planning is critical to maintain the quality of the program given the known reductions in budgets over the next several years and the uncertainty of the global economy as an externality. This planning is also necessary to make available opportunities for faculty research and development as mandated by the university's mission as a research institution.*

In times of continued reduced budgets, financial planning is increasingly critical to maintaining the quality of our programs. The College of Arts and Architecture in collaboration with the School of Architecture restructured the financial operations of the School. This restructuring led to the development of a new position, Business Services Coordinator (BSC), a higher-level position than the School's previous "account technician." A new, full-time "business services coordinator" was hired last October and has worked out very well.

During FY 12, the State Legislature approved a Phase II "tuition increment" for graduate study in the School of Architecture. This funding provides financial assistance and academic enhancement programming for students and faculty. The SoA inaugurated a new, external peer-review 'faculty research grant' program in support of faculty research and development. Also, the College provided year-end one-time funding for equipment, materials and supplies.