

National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc.

April 30, 2013

Dr. John M. Anderson
President
Alfred State College
Huntington Administration Building
Alfred, NY 14802



Dear Dr. Anderson:

At the April 2013 special session of the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), the board reviewed the *Application for Candidacy* for the Alfred State College, Department of Architecture and Design.

As a result, the proposed professional architecture degree program,

Bachelor of Architecture

has been accepted as eligible for candidacy. A visit for initial candidacy has been added to the Visit List for spring 2014. This visit will be conducted under the provisions of the NAAB 2009 Conditions for Accreditation and Section 3 of the NAAB Procedures for Accreditation, 2012 Edition, Amended.

The *Architecture Program Report (APR) for Initial Candidacy* is due in the NAAB office six months before the date of the visit. The format and content of the *APR* is described in detail in Section 3.

The board wishes to express its support for developing programs by encouraging administrators and faculty to take advantage of the resources available within the community of program administrators, department chairs, and deans represented by the members of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. The annual ACSA Administrators Conference and the ACSA Annual Meeting can be a source of rich discussion and advice for emerging programs. Further, the NAAB offers a full range of programs and workshops at both of these conferences that may be of value to the faculty and administrators at Alfred State College.

A letter with the name of the proposed chair for this visit will be forthcoming. Once Alfred State approves the chair, you will be able to set the date for the visit.

If the program wishes to postpone its visit for initial candidacy to the fall of 2014, please submit a request at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theodore C. Landsmark", is written over a horizontal line.

Theodore C. Landsmark, M. Env.D., J.D., DFA (Hon.), Ph.D.
President

cc: Dr. Heinrich Hermann, Dean ✓
Amy Perenchio, Eligibility Reviewer

Enc.

1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Suite 410

Washington, DC 20036

tel 202.783.2007

fax 202.783.2822

www.naab.org

info@naab.org

Date: March 28, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL ACCREDITING BOARD

FROM: AMY PERENCHIO, ASSOC., AIA, LEED®AP
DIRECTOR

LINDA KIISK, AIA NCARB, LEED®AP
PRESIDENT-ELECT

ANDREA S. RUTLEDGE, CAE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Eligibility for Candidacy – State University of New York
College of Technology, Alfred State College B. Arch (157
credits + 1 credit for physical education)



1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

www.naab.org

tel: 202.783.2007

fax: 202.783.2822

email: info@naab.org

On January 7, 2013, Alfred State College filed a completed application for candidacy for an accredited of Bachelor of Architecture (157 credits + 1 credit for physical education). This application was filed under the terms of the *2012 NAAB Procedures for Accreditation*, Section 4.

The next step is to determine whether the proposed degree program is eligible for candidacy. Because Alfred State College does not currently offer a NAAB-accredited degree, an eligibility visit was required. The visit was conducted February 13-16, 2013 by Amy Perenchio, Assoc., AIA LEED®AP. The application was reviewed by a panel consisting of the executive director, Ms. Perenchio, and one additional member of the board. In order to ensure balance between practitioners and educators, and to avoid potential conflicts of interest, Linda Kiisk, AIA NCARB, LEED®AP served as the third member of the panel. The purposes of the eligibility visit are:

- To review the *Conditions and Procedures* with the proposed program's administrators, faculty, staff, and students;
- To confirm the institutional commitment to the implementation of the *Plan for Achieving Initial Accreditation*;
- To review the physical, financial, human, and information resources committed to the program.

Upon completing the visit, the reviewer is required to submit a memorandum to the NAAB Directors addressing four areas:

1. A review of the resources committed to the program
2. Commitment of the institution to implementation of the *Plan for Achieving Initial Accreditation*.
3. Assessment of the readiness of the program to complete a visit for initial candidacy.
4. Recommendation to the NAAB Board to accept or not accept the program as eligible for initial candidacy. The recommendation will also identify the length of time that should elapse before scheduling the initial candidacy visit.

General Information

Alfred State College (ASC) began as a state school of agriculture in Alfred, New York in 1908. It was incorporated into the State University of New York (SUNY) in 1948, which authorized ASC to award the first associate degree in 1951. Today, ASC has 3,500 full-time students, 275 faculty and professional staff, and offers 79 programs, including 21 at baccalaureate level, 55 at the associate level, and 3 certificate programs. ASC's mission is "Alfred State, a residential college of technology, provides career-focused education enriched by the liberal arts to produce job – and transfer – ready graduates."

The architecture program began in 1952, as the Building Construction Technology curriculum. It soon evolved into the Architectural Technology curriculum. To better reflect the program, its name was changed to Construction Engineering Technology, and it was first accredited in 1965 by ECPD, The Engineers' Council for Professional Development (later renamed ABET).

In 1970, an architectural specialization was initiated, after contacts in industry expressed a need for architectural technicians. In 1974, the department began expanding the course offerings for the Architectural Technology curriculum, and by 1985 was accredited by ABET as Architectural Engineering Technology.

Computer technology was integrated in all parts of the program during the 1990s. In 1999 the newly approved BS in Architectural Technology program – also ABET accredited – admitted the first students to the junior year, and in 2003 the AAS degree in Interior Design was added to broaden the department's design offerings.

In 2012, the Department of Architecture and Design was formed to reflect the breadth of its offerings, and will include the new Bachelor of Architecture program. Currently the Department of Architecture and Design has 10 full-time faculty members and 235 full-time students in three degree programs:

- AAS in Architectural Engineering Technology
- AAS in Interior Design
- BS in Architectural Technology

The Department of Architecture and Design's mission is:

" ... [to] educate well-rounded, highly creative graduates who, following the program's vigorous training in design and the poetics of construction, paired with sustainability, construction technology, and the responsibilities and opportunities of civic engagement aimed at urban rejuvenation, are able to contribute to the world through meaningful and inspiring architecture."

The program's founding principles are a result of the formation of the B. Arch. degree and strengthening of the existing, highly technical curricula. The principles are: "design and the poetics of construction; sustainability, construction technology; integrated project delivery; civic engagement; and, urban renewal/social innovation projects." SUNY has authorized the ASC to award the degree of B. Arch., and the program will admit the first cohort of students into the Bachelor of Architecture degree program in the fall of 2013.

1. Review of Resources Committed to the Program

Human Resources

The program administrator and chair of the department of architecture and design, Dr. Heinrich Hermann, was hired in 2012 to lead the development of the B. Arch. program. Dr. Hermann is an experienced educator and practitioner and is charged with developing and coordinating the architecture programs, securing NAAB accreditation, and performing administrative duties within the department. He leads a faculty of ten full-time members, six of whom are licensed architects and five who are currently in practice. Six professors are tenured, and all faculty lines in the department are tenure-track.

In addition to the current faculty, the ASC is currently interviewing candidates for a structures professor position. This position will begin in 2013 and the new faculty member will teach courses in the B. Arch. program. Searches for all employees are handled through the ASC Office of Human Resources.

In discussions with students in the current undergraduate program, it is evident that the department's focus on creating a supportive learning environment and faculty-student collaboration is successful. Faculty have open door policies and advise and mentor students.

The panel noted that a number of faculty are nearing retirement. Further, the diversity (gender and ethnicity) of the faculty may not be reflective of the student body in general. The panel is concerned that the department does not have a plan for ensuring that

- (a) faculty lines are retained as retirements occur and
- (b) identifying and recruiting candidates for these vacancies that will enhance the existing demographics of the faculty in general. The department is encouraged to begin the process for effective succession planning for its faculty as part of its progress toward achieving initial candidacy and accreditation.

Financial Resources

In separate meetings with the vice president, chief financial officer and acting president, the provost and vice president for academic affairs, and the dean of the School of Architecture, Management, and Engineering Technology, it was clear that the administration understands the significance of the new B. Arch. program. However, there appear to be differences of opinion between administrators about how the program is supported financially.

The university budgets centrally for instructional resources, faculty, and capital improvements. Campus-based (central) resources also cover faculty searches, computers, equipment, utilities, space, technical support, and copying. Each department is provided with an annual supplies and expenses (S&E) budget to "support operations and [to] supplement professional development or other activities not covered by campus resources." The architecture and design department currently has an annual S&E budget of \$10,000.

There are plans in place to increase resources with program growth. Support for professional development activities are available to faculty through grants, scholarships and other funds.

The department has not sought private funding from alumni to support the proposed program, but is currently working with the ASC development office to identify prospects and to begin fundraising efforts.

Physical Resources

The department of architecture and design is currently housed in the Engineering Technology Building (ETB); this will also be home the new B. Arch. program. A lower level lounge in Peet Hall has been renovated for a senior architecture studio as part of a residence hall living-learning community dedicated to architecture.

The ASC *2013-2023 Facilities Master Plan* places emphasis on meeting the space needs of the architecture programs. The re-purposing of surplus engineering lab space in the ETB has been identified for future studio and classroom space for the proposed B. Arch. program.

Conversion of engineering classroom and lab spaces in the ETB to the architecture program for studio and classroom use will be phased-in as the program grows. Space has already been allocated for Fall 2013 and the first cohort of students. Conversion of this space will take place in the summer of 2013.

While the space available is not elegant, it is functional and will provide the program with what it needs to grow over time. As more students are enrolled and advance through the curriculum, there will be a need to identify how the spaces available for expansion are best used. It should also be noted that there is currently no wood shop facility available for use by architecture students.

Information Resources

The Hinkle Memorial Library serves the entire ASC campus and houses the architectural technology and interior design collections. It is staffed by four librarians, each with a MLS degree from programs accredited by the American Library Association. There are an additional three instructional support assistants and three clerical staff.

Located directly next to the ETB, Hinkle Memorial Library's close proximity allows easy access for students and faculty. It is open 91.5 hours per week. The library is a member of SUNYConnect. This is a consortium of libraries in the State University of New York (SUNY) System and is managed as a single library management system. Through SUNYConnect, students have access to the holdings of all university libraries in the SUNY System.

The Hinkle Library currently holds 42,985 titles. The Library of Congress NA (Architecture) section has 1,400 monograph titles, and 120 videos. The library has access to over 40 architectural journals in electronic and/or print formats. The Jean B. Lang Western New York Historical Collection is housed in the Hinkle library. A small collection of materials in the architecture section includes monographs, photographs, as well as, a collection of slides on the architectural use of terra cotta.

Due to the limited collection, faculty members tend to loan out their personal books to students and do not usually request that new books be purchased by the library. As a solution, a one-time sum of \$15,000 has been allocated to be spent to expand the current architectural holdings. Purchases will be made prior to Fall 2013. After 2013, \$5,000 has been budgeted to maintain and grow the collection. Library staff have been working with program chair, Dr. Hermann, to develop a list of needed books and periodicals that are currently not part of the collection.

Based on the budget allocations, and attention being given to this important resource, the panel has every confidence that appropriate resources will be in place by the arrival of the program's first cohort of students.

2. Commitment of the Institution to the Implementation of the Plan for Achieving Initial Accreditation

During the visit to ASC, Ms. Perenchio met with the following key individuals involved in the program's development:

Dr. Heinrich Hermann, Chair and Professor, Department of Architecture and Design

John Williams, Dean, School of Architecture, Management, and Engineering Technology

Val Nixon, VP, CFO, and Acting President,

Stephen Havlovic, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs

David Haggstrom, Librarian

Glenn Brubaker, Director of Facilities

Rex Simpson, Past Chair and Current Professor, Department of Architecture and Design

Bill Dean, Past Chair and Current Professor, Department of Architecture and Design

Architecture and Design faculty and staff

Current students in all years of the AAS and BS in Architecture Program

Several local practicing professionals, ASC alumni, and several members of the Advisory Board

Based on her review of the documents submitted and the visit itself, she believes the administration, staff, and faculty involved in the development of this program understand both the implications of establishing a new accredited degree program in architecture and the steps necessary to earn initial candidacy.

3. Readiness of the Program to Complete a Visit for Initial Candidacy

The proposed timeline for achieving initial accreditation, found in Part Two (II) Section 5 of the Plan outlines a realistic schedule that conforms to the *2012 Procedures for Accreditation*. The department plans to enroll its first cohort of undergraduate students into the professional B. Arch. program in Fall of 2013 and is requesting an initial candidacy visit in 2014. Based on initial candidacy on this schedule, a second candidacy visit can be expected in 2016 and an initial accreditation visit in the Fall of 2018, immediately after graduation of their first cohort of students. This timeline would meet the minimum requirement for candidacy noted in Section 4 of *The 2012 Procedures for Accreditation*.

During a visit for initial candidacy in 2014, a team can expect to see a highly technical program that is excited about the opportunity of accreditation. Its first cohort of students will be enrolled in classes taught by an experienced and supportive faculty. The existing preprofessional program will provide a solid base for a professional degree program. The remaining components – particularly resources, will be coming into place.

The visiting team should expect to see a plan for facilities growth, student recruitment, and expanding the library and media collections. They should also see a defined plan for review and acceptance of future transfer students--specifically those who will eventually come from the current AAS and BS programs at ASC. The team room will be short on student work, which is expected during a visit for initial candidacy, but all other elements of a professional program should be developed or developing on schedule.

Other Comments From the Review Panel

The review panel finds many noteworthy actions and activities which are facilitating the vision to offer a NAAB-accredited professional degree program. It is clear that an "immersion in the liberal arts with rigorous training in both the artistic and the practical technical aspects of architecture to produce job-ready, well-rounded graduates" is closely tied to the ASC mission.

The impetus to establish a NAAB-accredited professional degree program has largely been a grassroots effort that commenced at the department level and is being sustained mostly by the efforts of the faculty and former department chairs. Building a NAAB-accredited program within the context of ABET-accredited programs and related disciplines represents a significant shift for this institution. Yet, it may turn out to be one of its strengths in that the proposed program seeks to integrate the highly technical education required of an architect with a visually creative design education. There is an expectation that there will be a rich level of cross-disciplinary engagement with the business and project management programs.

The panel also notes the following as strengths for an emerging programs: the role of the advisory committee, potential for the success of future graduates, IDP initiatives and Studio Culture Policy.

- The advisory committee includes a broad spectrum of alumni (including recent graduates) and employers. This group's continued advocacy with the university administration is important to the program's successful progress through candidacy to initial accreditation. Members of the Advisory Committee are enthusiastic about the possibility of the department's future graduates who they see as readily adaptable and capable of easily stepping into the profession with a strong technical education and reality based curriculum.
- The department is to be commended for identifying an IDP Coordinator and establishing a schedule of IDP-related activities.
- The program is well-prepared to establish a Studio Culture policy within the proposed program by incorporating its existing policies. The panel encourages the program to include students in the on-going development of the policy. In the future, it must also include a process for evaluation and revision on a regular basis.

The enthusiasm and anticipation for the planned B. Arch. program is evident from all involved in its development. The faculty have worked hard to transform the program into what it is today and this synergy is expected to continue to strengthen the new professional B. Arch. program.

However, the success of the proposed program will rely on coordinated support and understanding from the upper administration at the university. While supportive in general, it was evident in meetings during the eligibility visit that some administrators do not fully understand the nature of an accredited degree in architecture and how NAAB accreditation differs from ABET. It will fall largely to the department leadership, the

faculty, and the advisory committee to effectively promote the value of an accredited, professional degree in architecture to the institution.

The panel would like to thank the program and the institution for their hard work and dedication in preparing for the eligibility visit, specifically Dr. Heinrich Hermann for his generous hospitality and the great effort he put into writing the *Plan for Achieving Initial Accreditation* and planning the visit. Thanks also to Rex Simpson and Bill Dean for the invaluable insight they provided on the history of the program and its evolution. The eagerness of the present and past program chairs to engage in a constructive and informative dialogue made this visit very enjoyable and effective.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Perenchio, Assoc., AIA, LEED® AP



Linda Kiisk, AIA, LEED® AP NCARB



Andrea S. Rutledge, CAE