



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

March 21, 2023

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California State Polytechnic University

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Practitioners

Erin Degutis, ASLA, RLA
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Dale Jaeger, FASLA, PLA
WLA Studio

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA
LAAB Chair

Dear Professor Angueira:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its February 9, 2023, meeting granted accreditation for a period of three (3) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico. This status is subject to review of an interim reports to be submitted annually with the first report due by December 1, 2023, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Public Representatives

Derrek Niec-Williams
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Although Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico did not demonstrate compliance with minimum faculty instruction full-time equivalence (FTE) requirements at the time of the review with only two full-time landscape architecture faculty (of which one is the Program Director with significant administrative and teaching duties outside the MLA program), LAAB is granting a waiver on this minimum requirement due to the negative impacts of the natural, economic, and political devastation that has consumed Puerto Rico over the last decade. This waiver is specifically for this three-year grant of accreditation and the program should be continuously working toward meeting minimum requirements and compliance with all accreditation standards. **Therefore, LAAB acted to require interim reports due annually with the first report due by December 1, 2023.**

ASLA Representative

Kona Gray, FASLA
EDSA

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren., ASLA
LAAB Chair-Elect
Pennsylvania State University

The interim report should provide an update on each Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (RAA) in order to demonstrate compliance, or steps towards compliance, with the respective standard. Upon receipt of the Interim Report, the LAAB will accept that the RAA(s) have been addressed or, if not, the program will be given another year to resolve the issues. A second Interim Report will be due to the LAAB on December 1, 2024.

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA
LAAB Secretary
Mark Thomas

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The three-year period of accreditation ends December 31, 2025. Accordingly, the MLA program at Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2025.

Director

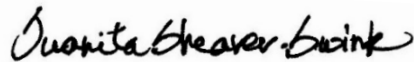
Kristopher Pritchard

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the visiting team's report, and the program's response to the report.

Enclosed is a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in the interim report via the process laid out above) and an Interim Reporting template. This list was developed by LAAB from the materials reviewed during the meeting.

On behalf of the visiting team, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to them by the faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juanita Shearer-Swink". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Ernesto Vazquez Martinez, President

**Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 9, 2023**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Revise and implement a long-term strategic planning process in alignment with the institution's forthcoming revised strategic priorities including educational objectives, faculty development, student recruitment, alternative funding sources, and processes for continuous program improvement (Standard 1).
2. Reduce the Program Director's administrative responsibility to the School of Architecture and redirect that workload to support the MLA Program administration (Standard 2).
3. Hire additional faculty to achieve the LAAB minimum requirement of three full-time faculty members for a program seeking re-accreditation (Standard 2).
4. Formalize documentation of course assessments (Standard 3).

Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board

Interim Report

Submitted By:

Submission Date:

Section 1.

Name of Institution:

Name of Department:

Name of Program:

Date of Decision Letter:

Section 2.

Recommendation Affecting Accreditation: (Copy/paste verbatim the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in the Decision Letter that is the subject of this Report and attach the Decision Letter. If Decision Letter identified more than one (1) Recommendation Affecting Accreditation, complete an Interim Report for each Recommendation.)

Section 3.

Action Taken by Program: (Describe the action taken by the Program to address the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in Section 2 of this Report. Attach any appropriate documentation that supports the action taken by the Program)

Section 4.

Prior Action Taken by Program: (If applicable, attach any prior Interim Report related to the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation described in Section 2 of this Report)