

Architecture Department
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, California

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Date of last accreditation visit: February 26-March 2, 2005

PART 2 — NAAB Visiting Team Report - "II. Compliance with the Conditions for Accreditation"

CONDITION "NOT MET"

12.29 Comprehensive Design

So little evidence was found of the physical manifestation of mechanical systems required by the comprehensive design criterion that the team found this condition not met.

Response:

Updated 2009 Response

• During 2008/2009 a "Fifth Year Assessment Rubric" was developed by the curriculum committee and is based on NAAB's Student Performance Criteria. Submitted fifth year portfolios were reviewed using this rubric at the beginning of the 2009-10 academic year at the fall faculty retreat after much discussion in 2008/2009. As a result, there seems to be further support for broadening the application of this evaluation rubric to all upper-division years. Several initiatives have resulted from this process:

1. Three faculty members in third year (Cabrinha, Fowler and Neveu) have agreed to pilot a two-quarter studio (two - winter and spring and one - fall and winter) with the focus on having the students produce more comprehensive projects over a 20-week period. The lessons learned from these pilot studios will be used to make decisions for improving the building systems integration in all third year studios.
2. A pilot e-portfolio system is being developed in collaboration with the Information Technology Systems (ITS) division on campus. This system is being developed to eventually allow for all studio and activity courses to have students submit portfolios at the end of each quarter, which will allow the department to assess the quality of student work outcomes across the entire curriculum.
3. A third year studio will have students submit portfolios to test the use of this system in the fall quarter 2009, with the idea that we will ask all faculty to require that students submit portfolios for each design studio and activity course in the curriculum by the beginning of Fall 2010.
4. Assessment rubrics will be developed by each year tailored to a particular set of learning objectives.
5. Pilot vertical studios between third and fourth year will be explored over the next year to improve the development of comprehensive projects.

2008 Response

• During 2007/2008 all year-level design studio and activity courses had learning objectives confirmed via presentations to the general faculty. A "Fourth Year Assessment Rubric" was developed by the curriculum committee and is based on NAAB's Student Performance Criteria. Submitted fourth year portfolios were reviewed using this rubric at the beginning of the academic year at a faculty retreat. As a result, there seems to be support for broadening the application of this evaluation rubric to all upper-division years. First Year is working on revisions that should lead to a comparable lower-division rubric. The rubric that will be applied for all years has three points of evaluation (e.g., fails/meets/exceeds expectations), and it details appropriate forms of visible evidence to consider for evaluation. There is a plan for ongoing assessment and continuous improvement, based on a portfolio policy that would collect multiple years worth of work from all students, with a portion of the program being assessed every year.

- After discussions with a number of fifth year faculty during 2007/2008, the Department initiated during the students' final thesis year, a comprehensive design studio that took place during the Fall quarter of 2007. Four faculty members joined this pilot program and a book is being published to disseminate the success of this approach.

- See Interdisciplinary design studio opportunity started during 2007/2008 mentioned in the updated response for *"ongoing concern about the limited range of opportunities for on-campus studios and instructors for the fourth year"*.

2007 Response

- The adoption of curriculum changes (started 2005-6) have improved technical support course sequencing (Structural Engineering, Environmental Control Systems and Professional Practice Courses), and content integration, along with reducing the total number of B.Arch units; the department is in the process of establishing program-level learning outcomes and methods for monitoring student attainment of learning outcomes through appropriate direct and indirect assessment methods. The design level coordinators in collaboration with the other area coordinators (practice, history & ECS) developed a draft white paper June 2006 that proposes a series of recommendations for improving learning outcomes assessment of all courses within the curriculum. The area coordinators have continued to meet during the 2006-2007 academic year to discuss the implementation priorities so the department can focus on improving the visible manifestation of mechanical systems in design studio projects.

CONDITION "MET" WITH COMMENTARY

Condition 5: Human Resources (met with commentary)

Condition 7: Physical Resources (met with commentary)

Condition 12.22: Building Systems Integration (met with commentary)

Response:

Per NAAB's response to the 2007 Annual Report, no additional reporting is needed on these areas that are "met with commentary".

PART 3 — NAAB Visiting Team Report - "5. Causes of Concern"

- *The previous reductions in state funding have resulted in a financial strain on the Architecture Department. There is a concern that the Architecture Department college-based fees (CBF) are not a viable long-term solution for covering state funding shortfalls.*

Response:

Updated 2009 Response

- Private donations have increased the opportunities for students, while chronic state funding still persists. While we can certainly accomplish more, we are doing quite well, given the past two years of state economic slump. The University awaits the potential challenges of the State reducing the amount of funding to the California State University system. The impacts to the program will not be known until the summer of 2009.

- During 2008/2009 the program went \$5,000 over allocated O&E budget to cover additional faculty scholarship activities. These funds were covered from department discretionary monies.

- The department started a discussion with faculty in October 2008 for the adoption of a series of curriculum initiatives that would enhance the curriculum, while at the same time saving money.

- The college-based fees (CBF) were very well managed under the new leadership of a second year student, Scott McCall. A sampling of selected projects includes: a new laser cutter machine and laser cutter computer (\$25,000), which added a second cutter/computer to the fabrication lab; teaching assistants money for the fabrication lab (\$10,000); Microscribe (\$8,000), that allows students to digitally input physical models into the computer; design studio furnishings contribution (\$10,000) to enhance the design studio furnishings/digital equipment; permanent archive room shelving system (\$3,000); books and furniture for the Media Resource Center (\$8,000); money to rent a demonstration large format plotter for the MRC (\$325), to pilot establishing a in house strategy for student printing; and support for a number of classroom initiatives - materials for fabricating a new interior space for the AIAS Chapter (\$2,800) as part of ARCH 351 course that will be taught fall 2009; third year end of the winter quarter "Super Reviews" (\$3,000), where an outside jury is invited to review two projects from each third year design studio and top projects are recognized; 4th year interdisciplinary design studio (\$7,000); and fifth year students final exhibition (\$2,000).

- The department secured the students' vote to increase the CBF by \$900 over the next three years. Unfortunately, the students' vote of confidence for approving this fee increase is pending approval by the CSU Chancellor for the entire Cal Poly campus.

- The Department continues to secure and grow its outreach efforts to secure additional funds from donors. January 2008 the anonymous donor contributed a corporate gift in the amount of \$25,000 and has repeated this November 2009 with an identical contribution. We are fortunate to have secured a number of new scholarships and endowed scholarships for students. Much has been done to secure additional sponsored studios, but the donors have set on hold temporarily their commitment for this year given the down turn of the economy. The named studios that are currently on hold are earmarked for a sustainable studio, two additional interdisciplinary studios, and the exhibition hall (breezeway between ARCE and CM Department, sponsored by the CAEDF Board.

- Additional sponsorship has gone to support the MRC, and in particular, the Sustainable Materials Collection.

- Probationary faculty were provided funds in the amount of \$2,000 to use towards scholarship. Also each probationary faculty member going up for tenure received an addition stipend of \$2,000 to complete any work needed to be featured in their tenure dossier.

2008 Response

- \$511,000 in Group II funds have been provided to the department for the purchase of new workstations for two thirds of all design studios (21 rooms) and digital technology for nearly all design studios (29 rooms), which includes large format LCD screens and new computers, along with videoconferencing equipment and new furniture for the Faculty Conference Room.

- The Department Head has been successful in securing donors who have agreed to name two design studios. The two named studios themed as the "Interdisciplinary Design Studio" and the "Comprehensive Design Studio" will provide \$50,000 for each studio over a 5-year period. Additional studio naming opportunities are currently being explored.

- The department has worked closely with the student officers of the CBF to identify the needs of students at all year levels. Students have indicated the desire to purchase advanced technology equipment (laser cutter and CNC machine) along with updating color laser printers and acquiring large format scanners. During 2007-08 over \$260,000 of the CBF money was spent to address the identified student needs.

2007 Response

- The college-based fees (CBF), a supplemental fee collected from all students in the department, is considered a temporary solution for offsetting the department's state funding shortfall. We are working to increase the amount of private funding for the department to offset dwindling state funding. That will

allow us to improve the financial support for faculty development and increase the annual allocations for operating and equipment (O&E) expenses.

- The CSU is anticipating some easement in funding shortfalls due to California's recent economic upswing. In addition, there is pending legislation that will require that all CSU registration and housing fees remain in a trust fund to be allocated strictly to the CSU. If this legislation passes, it is anticipated that there will be less scramble for State general fund dollars, and again should ease the financial stress on the campus and department.

- The new department head is actively pursuing new strategies for improving fundraising from private sources.

• There is a concern about the hiring and retention of faculty created by the number of recent retirements, cost of housing, and the university's financial constraints. This is most evident in the inability to obtain a permanent department head.

Response:

Updated 2009 Response

- The University established a freeze on hiring new tenure track faculty, due to state budget challenges for the year.

- Retention: Four faculty were advanced to tenure. Two were promoted from Associate Professors to Full Professors and two from Assistant to Associate Professor. The department anticipates resuming two tenure track positions for fall 2009 in response to two recently completed FERP departures (Allan Cooper and Joseph Amanzio) and the retirement of three additional FERP's (Faculty Early Retirement Program) over the next two years. As the program is contemplating reducing enrollment to a healthier cohort of 750 students (from current number of about 850 students), the department will need less faculty and is currently assessing the balance between tenured faculty, probationary faculty, and lecturers.

- Housing: The economic downturn still continues to provide reduced cost housing opportunities for faculty. One new tenure track faculty member was able to purchase a house. The new dormitory project was completed during the summer of 2009.

2008 Response

- Four (4) new tenure-track faculty have been hired to start teaching Fall 2008. This is the result of a national search for new faculty conducted in 2007/08.

- Retention: The department does have a good track record of retaining faculty at a high rate (once they come they tend to stay), as does the rest of the University.

- Housing: Due to the economic downturn, housing costs have declined here. Also, the University is providing more student housing on campus (just completed phase 1 of a new dormitory project with phase II projected to be completed in Fall 2009). This reduces demand for off-campus house and, as a result, there are more economical opportunities for housing in the area for faculty.

2007 Response

- The University is attempting to deal with the cost of housing challenge for new faculty with the construction of a faculty housing project with the first phase of homes made available in the Winter of 2007. Two of our probationary faculty, have secured units in this new housing development. The department is unsure at this time what impact of this housing project will have in assisting future probationary hires.

- The department had a 100% acceptance rate of all five of the first choice probationary faculty candidates during the 2004-2005 search. The high quality of the applicant pool allowed the department to hire four faculty as opposed to three.
- After a failed permanent department head search 2004-2005, a new department head has been hired and he started in August 2006.
- In 2005 the department has adopted new guidelines for Appointment Retention Promotion Tenure (ARPT), and the first cycle of faculty to follow these procedures were hired in the 2005 – 2006 academic year. The ARPT guidelines have been helpful to faculty in clarifying the expectations of the department for faculty development.
- To assist faculty in understanding available department resources, the department updated the following policies in January 2005: Sabbatical/Difference In Pay, Computer, and Travel. These policies are now posted on the department's website for easy reference.
- The result of the department's Fall 2007 search for new tenured faculty members, three tenured track faculty members were successfully hired and started teaching Fall 2008.
- ***While advising services are available, they are inadequate in supporting the needs of the majority of the students.***

Response:

Per NABB's response to the 2007 Annual Report, no more reporting is needed on this area of concern.

- ***There is a ongoing concern about the limited range of opportunities for on-campus studios and instructors for the fourth year. While progress has been made in this area since the last visit, more can be done to improve the situation for students who do not participate in off-campus programs.***

Response:

Updated 2009 Response

- Due to the economic downturn, two of the professional studios (KTYG and WATG) have been temporarily suspended for this year. However, one professional studio was added by SOM in San Francisco, CA. This is an advanced high-rise building systems integration studio also in collaboration with UC Berkeley and the California College of Arts and Crafts.
- The Department's unique fourth year on-campus interdisciplinary studios continue to gain in popularity with the students that remain in campus during the fourth year.
- Ralph Roesling from Roesling Nakamura Terada Architects, San Diego, CA has joined the professional studio model for firms that agree to run both a design studio and internship for selected 4th year students that participate on a quarterly basis.
- The Faculty teaching in the fourth year have been stabilized and students are happy with this change. This is demonstrated through the substantial reduction in the number of independent study studio requests over this last year.
- An innovative metro program was launched summer 2009 and students from ARCH and CRP worked in Oakland with faculty member Michael Pyatoc, Oakland based architect. On-campus faculty from both departments contributed to the program as well.

- The department is seeking to secure additional exchange program with the Bauhaus in Dessau (Germany), the Academia in Mendrisio, (Switzerland), the FH in Stuttgart (Germany), and several schools in Buenos Aires (Argentina). The outreach with Ahmedabad will unfold with the support of the new Department Head in City Regional Planning. The Australia program is at its beginnings and we hope to see students from Australia come to the department.

- The Interdisciplinary studio between ARCE and ARCH continues to be a great success and has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from Autodesk for a proposal called the "Design Collaboratory".

- The interdisciplinary studio between ARCH and CM is being refined and will include ARCE and LA students as part of this course in 2009/10.

2008 Response

- 2007/08 the Department Heads of Architecture, Architectural Engineering and Construction Management have been working together to develop pilot interdisciplinary courses.

- The Department Head has increased the number of students and permanent faculty in fourth year, which has improved the strength and stability in this part of the program. We now have a permanent 4th year area coordinator who is developing exciting opportunities for 4th year students, along with having a 4th year faculty member who is working with the construction management department to develop a design course that integrates issues of architecture and construction management while working directly with a real client in the development of a project. This integrated project management studio is complemented by a robust series of guest lecturers chosen from the CAED alumni and trade representatives.

- A new fourth year interdisciplinary design (architecture, structural engineering and construction management) studio started during 2007/2008. This two-quarter studio provides an opportunity for all three disciplines to collaborate in the generation of a design problem and provides associated faculty with an opportunity to pursue scholarship activities. A student team placed in the International AISC/ACSA Housing Competition the first time this studio was offered. This interdisciplinary design studio will be offered again for winter and spring 2009 and will also include the involvement of an internationally acclaimed structural engineering firm, Buro Happold, in providing students with an industry perspective on structural and mechanical integration.

- The Department has increased the number of exchange students with the existing Paris Program (from six to ten) and anticipates developing two additional exchange programs with India (Ahmedabad) and Australia (Sydney). The atmosphere for the on-campus students has thus greatly improved, enriching the student body with a diverse and challenging learning environment.

2007 Response

- Since half of the fourth year students go off campus to participate in established study abroad programs, many students that remain on campus fourth year (the reasons for staying range from academic, financial, and personal) feel there should be a greater variety of academic opportunities available. The department is in the process of redefining the role, experiences and overall education goals for fourth year.

While the department is redefining the fourth year, some new plans are underway:

- The department began a pilot program in 2005-06, for interested fourth year students to participate in a quarter long co-op and design studio experience with an architecture firm. This program (The Professional Studio Program) allows students to work on actual firm projects for pay along with taking a fourth year design studio at the firm for academic credit. Students obtain 8 units of Co-op Credit (Professional Elective) and 5 Units of 4th Year Design Studio and Professional Practice activity course credit. The principles in the firm act as the studio design critics and they also work with department faculty to establish project and learning objectives. Following that successful pilot program (10 students

participated during the 2005-06 academic year and one firm) the department expanded this program to include three large firms in 2006-07. For 2007–08 four architecture firms have committed to participate in the Professional Studio Program. The department is continuing to expand the number of architecture firms that will participate in this program. For the 2008 – 09 the number of firms participating will remain the same.

- The mix of faculty teaching in fourth year has been changed to include visiting professionals along with recently hired and tenured faculty, so students will have an opportunity to experience a variety of approaches and building types in their design studios.
- The fourth year faculty developed a white paper June 2006 to define the overall education goals for the fourth year. The recommendations of this white paper will continue to be discussed with the entire faculty during 2007-2008. Implementation priorities will be established from these discussions.
- The draft fourth year assessment rubric developed in 2007-09, mentioned in the response to 12.29 Comprehensive Design will provide the strategy for assessing the learning outcomes for the range of new fourth year activities.

PART 4 — NAAB Visiting Team Report - "Changes To The Accredited Program"

Response:

Updated 2009 Response

The department has hired an additional staff person to assist in the office. This additional staff person has improved the efficiency of the department. Shane McKeague was hired 9/10/08. Her duties include assisting the Department Head with correspondence, meeting arrangements, scheduling of appointments, maintaining calendar. Special projects for Department Head and Associate Department Head include developing surveys, spreadsheets, assisting with the accreditation visit preparation, etc.

Ms. McKeague also provides receptionist duties for the department, maintains architecture@calpoly.edu email, produces weekly on line "student digest" and maintains other pages on Architecture web site, mail distribution, distributes and tracks key cards for all student, issued keys for design studios, initiates and follows up with student evaluation paperwork, and filing and documents distribution.

There are no other changes to the accredited program or reports on any other topic the program wants to bring to the attention of the NAAB that may affect its adherence to the *Conditions*.

2008 Response

There are no changes to the accredited program or reports on any other topic the program wants to bring to the attention of the NAAB that may affect its adherence to the *Conditions*.

2007 Response

The department has hired a permanent department head, Henri de Hahn, who started August 2006.

There are no other changes to the accredited program or reports on any other topic the program wants to bring.