



December 28, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: William Chapman
Interim Dean, School of Architecture

FROM: Michael Bruno *Michael Bruno*
Provost

Laura E. Lyons *Laura E. Lyons*
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Response to the BEnvD Program Review in the School of Architecture

Thank you for your memo dated November 16, 2020. The program review team was clearly impressed by the Bachelor of Environmental Design's curriculum, faculty, and students. You are to be commended for a program that is highly-regarded by current students and alumni, as well as the broader architecture community, where many BEnvD graduates begin their careers. We appreciate the commitment and hard work that went into this review. The team found the support materials helpful, and focus group engagement was excellent, enabling them to put forth a set of strong recommendations in their final report. In your response, we believe you have proposed creative solutions to addressing these, several of which we will discuss further below.

Although the BEnvD is not as technically-focused as the Bachelor of Architecture, the predominant undergraduate architecture degree in the field, the review team noted that local employers find the broad array of knowledge, experiences, and solution-oriented dispositions of your graduates to be well-suited to the needs of the industry. The greater emphasis on design over technical skill training is supported by the review team and your faculty alike. Plans to add "W" and "O" designations to existing required courses hopefully will ease the pathway for your students by better articulating General Education and major requirements. Although you did not address the team's recommendation to evaluate the HSL requirement, we will interpret this as an affirmation of the program's commitment to a broad array of skills and knowledge in your curriculum, including foundational studies in a second language. In response to the proposal to alter the TA-to-student ratio in ARCH 101 to provide greater instructional support to students, we suggest that you explore the possibility of using a Learning Assistant model as has been successful in the College of Natural Sciences. We recommend that you consult with the Director of the Learning Assistants Program, Professor Tara O'Neill (toneill@hawaii.edu) in the College of Education. We appreciate the School's commitment to achieving gender parity reflected in your hiring practices and in the goal to achieve equitable representation and success among the student body. You have welcomed some excellent new faculty to the School in recent years,

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which has done much to close the pervasive gender gaps in the field. Your commitment to ensuring successful learning experiences for female, non-binary, and male students alike is an excellent goal, and a survey could be a useful assessment tool to help launch this work. The Assessment and Curriculum Support Center in the OVCAA can provide assistance with developing a survey. We also recommend that you engage the UH Women's Center, the Campus Climate Committee and other resources on campus to help guide the development and implementation of this laudable project. We look forward to learning more about the survey and how it informs practice in your one-year progress report.

Overall, the review team's assessment of the program was resoundingly positive. Not surprisingly, they enthusiastically supported the move from provisional to established status for the BEnvD, both during their visit and in their final report. The OVCAA team looks forward to working with you early next year on the request for established status. Your one-year progress report will be due on January, 7, 2022.

C: April Goodwin, Director of Program Development and Review