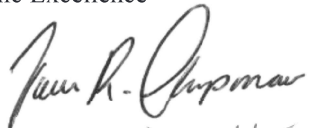





May 18, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael Bruno
Provost
Laura E. Lyons
Interim Vice Provost of Academic Excellence

VIA: William Chapman
Dean, School of Architecture 

FROM: Karla Sierralta
Director of Undergraduate Studies 

SUBJECT: Response to the School of Architecture Program Review Response from Administration dated December 28, 2020.

This memorandum is in response to the Provost's 12/28/2020 memorandum with the subject, "Response to the BEnvD Program Review in the School of Architecture." It will address the points noted in this memorandum and other relevant program updates.

The following notes summarize the primary efforts related to the School of Architecture's Bachelor of Environmental Design Program (BEnvD) during the past two academic years.

- **HSL Requirements**
Seeking to offer our students a broad range of skills, we have addressed your team's recommendation to evaluate HSL requirements. A series of minor modifications allow our students to take either language or culture courses, increasing opportunities for students to select courses that better suit their career paths and augment design-thinking and creative problem-solving skills. These changes are detailed in the Memorandum "Approval of Bachelor of Environmental Design Hawaiian /Second Language Requirement and Related Program Modifications", approved 01/24/23.
- **Design Studio Sequence**
Related modifications include a revision to the design studio sequence intended to strengthen architectural design skills and offer a culminating experience where students will be able to apply and integrate all major aspects learned in the BEnvD program. In the new sequence, the Fall semester of the fourth year will offer students the flexibility to participate in immersive experiences, internships, electives, or study abroad. During the Spring semester, the students will develop advanced projects in a final "Capstone Studio."
- **Required Courses**
The curriculum committee continues to evaluate the studio sequence and integration with other required courses. Most recently, the committee has determined and approved a need for courses that center on tectonics, materials, and building science, both at the foundation level and in the last years of the program. These courses will help strengthen the path of students wishing to pursue careers in architecture and related disciplines. Two new faculty hires are intended to develop and launch these courses in the near future.



- **Large Design Studio Courses**

In response to our first-year design studio Arch 101, faculty-to-student teaching ratios, which were historically disproportionate with other studios, we have recently implemented a Studio Coordinator System, mirroring other Schools of Architecture in the nation. A full-time faculty operates as the coordinator responsible for the course, with the support of part-time instructors and teaching assistants. This model was implemented during the Fall of 2022 for the first time and successfully supported the increased enrollment numbers that year, which were two-fold in comparison to previous years. The same system is intended to serve other large faculty-to-student teaching ratio design studios as our enrollment continues to grow, such as Arch 102, Arch 201, and Arch 202. Revisions to the workload policy to acknowledge the additional workload for faculty coordinators are pending and to be addressed in the near future.

- **Expanded Assessment Activities**

Starting in the Spring of 2022 the BEnvD expanded assessment activities that previously centered on design studios to include all required courses. These activities have initiated evaluations of course sequences and the relationships between required lecture courses and design studios. These assessments intend to inform future curricular alignments and the continued improvement of the program.

- **Equitable Transfer Pathways**

An articulation agreement to establish a more equitable transfer path between the Honolulu Community College (HCC) and the UHM BEnvD has been established. With this agreement, students will be able to complete coursework at HCC and automatically transfer to the UHM BEnvD. Our school is expecting the first HCC transfer students in the Fall of 2024.

- Our school continues to support equitable representation amongst faculty and student bodies. A survey to assess the learning experiences of underrepresented student populations is pending and intended to be developed and launched within the next academic year.

We remain committed to offering our students and faculty the best opportunities possible at our school and within the Bachelor of Environmental Design program and are grateful for your continued support.

C: April Goodwin, Director of Program Development and Review, Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Excellence