FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN UNIT REVIEW

Summary Report

The Site Visit of the Unit Review Team for the Faculty of Environmental Design took place from March 19-20th, 2018. The Unit Review Team consisted of:

Professor Joe Blalock, Chair, Landscape Architecture, Ball State University

Professor Patrick Condon, School of Architecture + Landscape Architecture, University of British Columbia[1]

Dr. David Witty, Provost and Vice-President Academic, Vancouver Island University

Dr. Jocelyn Hayley, Senior Associate Dean, Schulich School of Engineering, University of Calgary

Following the Site Visit, the Unit Review Team prepared a written report containing comments and recommendations. The Faculty of Environmental Design subsequently provided responses to the recommendations. General comments and the recommendations and responses follow.

General Comments of the Unit Review Team

The Unit Review Team recognizes the strengths of the EVDS programs and lauds the Faculty for its implementation of the 2013 Unit Re-hDp.1 (e)-6.2 (w)-7.9 ( )10.6 (T)-6.7 (e)-6.2 (a)6.1 (m)-7.2 (')6.2 (s)-9 (r)1.1 (e)

Faculty Response:
The Faculty agrees with the principle of collaboration and equity underlying this recommendation. However, as the Unit Review Team acknowledges, the current administrative structure is appropriate and

Recommendation 8

been struck to develop a strategy for the Faculty's community engaged scholarship and explore the potential for it to also become an integrated internship opportunity for students.

FACULTY RESEARCH

Recommendation 10*: URT recommends that EVDS devote more time and attention to the development of a stronger and more public scholarship agenda, including the increased promotion of existing work and the retention of a grant facilitator to assist in the preparation of research grant proposals.*

Faculty Response:
The Faculty agrees with this recommendation. There is a broad range and depth of research, scholarship, and creative activity being completed across the Faculty's three program areas. It is difficult, and

currently offered by EVDS and other Faculties into an undergraduate interdisciplinary degree; or (2) complete (1) above while also identifying new courses that complement the preceding into a new undergraduate EVDS degree; or (3) build a new undergraduate degree wholly delivered and offered by EVDS while being made available in large sections to all university students and potential EVDS graduate students.

Faculty Response:
The Faculty agrees with the idea of expanded undergraduate offerings in order to recruit students into our graduate offerings. Broadening Environmental Design's presence on the undergraduate stage has been identified as both an effective way to promote our professional degree programs and increase awareness about the importance of design. A working group has been created to develop a staged undergraduate strategy that builds on our existing Minor in Architectural Studies and the four undergraduate courses we currently teach. We anticipate that the first stage (2019-2020) will be an expanded number of design thinking courses that will have broad appeal across the academy. A second stage will be to evaluate the potential of creating additional minor programs such as a Minor in Landscape Architectural Studies or Planning that mirrors the current architectural studies minor as pathways into our graduate professional degrees.

Recommendation 13: The URT recommends that the Faculty partner with the University to build on Eyes High Strategy by creating a space and place, a Design Thinking Knowledge Network, where faculty, researchers and students from across the University are able to collaborate to explore the emerging wicked problems that have an interdisciplinary focus, require innovative system and design thinking applications, and a built environment/environmental focus.

Faculty Response:
The Faculty agrees with this recommendation. The proposed community engaged scholarship lab and the large-scale maker space are conceptualized as places of interdisciplinary collaboration on real world projects. This builds on the long-standing success of project-based collaboration through MakeCalgary and decades of faculty research and studio projects. The Faculty of Social Work and the Schulich School of Engineering have both expressed an interest to participate in the research that will be undertaken in these spaces.

Recommendation 14: The URT recommends EVDS offer "micro-credentials" such as sustainability and design thinking that could be delivered as part of the evolution toward an undergraduate degree.

Faculty Response:
The Faculty agrees with the sentiments of this recommendation as a potential strategy for expanding its undergraduate program offerings. See response to recommendation 12.

Recommendation 15: The URT recommends investigating pathway programs with polytechnics like SAIT and NAIT.

Faculty Response:
The Faculty agrees with this recommendation. Conversations are already underway with the Interior Design Program at Mount Royal University, the Alberta College of Art and Design, and Olds College about articulating and promoting the pathways that students in these programs can best follow to apply into

Faculty Response:

Strategy. To reach its full potential, however, the Unit Review Team believes some key actions identified in the 19 Recommendations and the Student Observations are required.

With a concerted effort to advance the Faculty and work closely with the University and external partners, the Faculty of Environmental Design could become a model for other design schools in Canada.

Follow-up

The Review Team recommendations will be revisited mid-way through the cycle. At that point, the Faculty of Environmental Design will be required to report on its status in acting on the recommendations, providing explanations and timelines for those which have not been met. This interim report should be submitted to the Provost in September 2020, with the next full review scheduled in 2022-2023.