

DATE: July 26, 2007

SUBJECT: The University of Memphis, Master of Architecture (M.Arch.) in Architecture

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The purpose of the proposed Master of Architecture M.Arch. degree program is to prepare graduates to enter the professional practice of architecture and to serve the Memphis and Mid-South region through research, engaged scholarship, and interdisciplinary collaboration. The proposed program will be characterized by its emphasis on urban planning through partnering with the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy.

The proposed program will bring together Architecture, City Planning, and Real Estate Development programs and will have alliances with the Henry Turley Residency and an emerging Memphis Community Design Center. Research and practice within the program will focus on architecture and design within an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving, specifically in urban sustainability, including participation in the development of the Memphis Bio-Tech area, the University Neighborhood Development Cooperation area, and other areas critical to the region.

The University of Memphis does not offer an undergraduate professional degree in Architecture. Instead, the University offers the four-year, pre-professional Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in Architecture. Students earning this degree are not eligible to sit for the Architect Registration Examination in Tennessee and must apply and be accepted into professional Master of Architecture degree programs at other universities. The University of Memphis offers as a primary justification for the proposal the fact that Memphis is the center of the culturally-diverse Mid-South Region which offers special opportunities for the involvement of student in an urban laboratory.

PROPOSED START-UP DATE: Fall 2007

Commission staff reviewed this program proposal according to the academic standards adopted by the Commission on January 29, 1997. Each relevant standard is referenced below.

1.1.20A MISSION: The program proposed is consistent with the University of Memphis mission to provide high-quality learning opportunities in professional education and engaged scholarship and to transfer knowledge and collaborate through active engagement with the range of community stakeholders and institutions as an institution recognized among the leading metropolitan research universities in America.

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: The proposed degree will be based on the “4+2” national model where the existing pre-professional BFA in Architecture is used as the foundation for the NAAB-accredited M.Arch. The Master of Architecture degree completes the education required for the graduate to enter the architectural internship process and, ultimately, to sit for the Architect Registration Examination. The curriculum incorporates existing courses in City and Regional Planning and Real Estate Development in addition to required Architecture courses.

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS:

Projected Program Productivity:

Year	Full-time Headcount	Part-time Headcount	FTE	Graduates
1	8	2	9	
2	10	4	12	8
3	14	4	16	10
4	16	4	18	12
5	18	4	20	14

Students will be admitted on a competitive basis by an admissions committee comprised of architecture faculty. Persons making application must have completed an approved, pre-professional undergraduate degree in Architecture, Environmental Design, or the equivalent. Students must submit a portfolio demonstrating knowledge and understanding conforming to NAAB student performance criteria; three letters of recommendation, with at least one from a former professor familiar with the applicant’s academic architectural background; a statement/essay of intent declaring interest and professional goals; GRE scores; TOEFL scores for students whose native language is not English; and official transcripts. Students with adequate preparation may be given advanced standing. Retention standards will be those of the Graduate School. Graduation requirements are successful completion of all required course work and satisfactory completion of the thesis.

1.1.20D FACULTY: The consultant judged the current faculty to be adequate to implement the program. Existing faculty contributing to the interdisciplinary program are those in the BFA in Architecture and other academic units including the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, and the Fogelman College of Business and Economics. The University of Memphis expects to phase in additional full-time and adjunct faculty as the program develops to meet the NAAB accreditation calendar.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: Resources in Architecture in the University Library and in the City Planning library are adequate to initiate the program.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: The program will be administratively located in the College of Communication and Fine Arts.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: Support resources and partnerships, including the Henry Turley Residency program, will bring together faculty and students from three colleges and a variety of disciplines. The University of Memphis has established a partnership between the BFA Architecture program and the Memphis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The University is a partner in the community design center established in conjunction with the AIA Memphis and the Urban Arts Commission. The program has received many letters of support from city and county government, architectural firms, foundations, and the Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners.

1.1.20H FACILITIES/INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT: The existing BFA in Architecture facilities will be used for the M.Arch. program with the addition of studio space, a classroom, and a shop. The University is undertaking a space analysis to identify the needed additional space and has committed to providing it. Small equipment expenditures (\$5,000 per year) are projected for year 2.

1.1.20I STUDENT/EMPLOYER DEMANDS: The University of Memphis maintains sufficient demand for the program, calling attention to the fact that Memphis is the largest urban area in the United States without an accredited degree program in architecture. The proposed program will be distinctive in its urban planning focus through collaboration among design and planning academic units. This curricular difference and physical distance from the University of Tennessee Knoxville graduate program in Architecture are demand factors. Further, the BFA in Architecture program attracts over 50 students each year, and this baccalaureate is expected to be a “feeder” program for the proposed M.Arch. Only one University of Memphis BFA in Architecture graduate has attended the University of Tennessee Knoxville to earn the Master’s. All others have left the state. The University of Memphis reports that all BFA in Architecture graduates pursuing the M.Arch. at other institutions have found employment in the field. However, few return to the Memphis area.

The American Institute of Architects has developed a quality of life national agenda which addresses such issues as assuring sustainable and efficient design; safe, healthy, and convenient communities; quality of construction in affordable housing; historic preservation and cultural enhancement; and economic development and job creation. Graduates of the proposed M.Arch. will be equipped for employment nationally and will meet professional architecture needs within the Memphis urban region.

1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DULICATION: Currently, the only Master of Architecture degree in Tennessee accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) is located at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

1.1.20K COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS: N/A

1.1 20L ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION: This proposal has no implications for SACS. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) is the only accrediting board for professional architecture degrees in the United States. According to NAAB guidelines, accreditation of the proposed Master of Architecture degree program could occur within three to four years following initiation of the

program. The University of Memphis will seek NAAB accreditation of the program. The program will be evaluated annually through internal assessment of recruitment activity, characteristics of enrolled students, employments of graduates, student satisfaction with the program, alumni feedback, and impact on the community through projects and activities.

1.1.2M ARTICULATION: N/A

1.1.20N EXTERNAL JUDGMENT: Lawrence W. Speck, FAIA, University Distinguished Teacher and W.L. Moody Centennial Professor of Architecture at The University of Texas at Austin, served as an external expert and reviewer of the program. Professor Speck recommended approval of the program. He recently served as the external reviewer for the existing University of Memphis undergraduate program in Architecture as was, therefore, familiar with the physical facilities, faculty, and other resources at the University. He stated in his report that the proposed M.Arch. program “builds on a solid, mature undergraduate program . . . and incorporates strong connection to the other programs at The University of Memphis and to community-based efforts in Memphis.” He reported that the curriculum is sufficiently extensive and sophisticated for a Master of Architecture program with strengths in the fact that it will fit well into the model required for NAAB accreditation with an emphasis on Urbanism and Urban Design. He stated: “the current faculty is of a level of quality adequate to ensure that the program will meet its stipulated objectives. The level of commitment of this group of individuals is extraordinary and deserves commendation.” He concluded that demand for this program is sufficient and based on current need and enrollment projections are realistic.

1.1.20O COST/BENEFIT/SOURCE:

**THEC Financial Estimate Form
The University of Memphis
Masters in Architecture**

Five-year projections are required for baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate programs and certificates. Projections should include cost of living increases per year.

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>
I. Expenditures					
A. One-time Expenditures					
New/Renovated Space					
Equipment		\$5,000	\$5,000		
Library					
Consultants	\$3,000				
Travel					
Other					
Sub-Total One-time	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,000		
B. Recurring Expenditures					
Personnel					
Administration					

Faculty²					
Salary	-	\$55,000	\$111,000	\$110,000	\$110,000
Benefits	-	16,500	33,000	33,000	33,000
Sub-Total Faculty	-	71,500	143,000	143,000	143,000
Support Staff					
Salary	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Benefits	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
Sub-Total Support Staff	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$39,000
Operating					
Travel	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Library	500	500	500	500	500
Printing	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment	-	500	500	500	500
Other(NAAB Fees)	2,750	2,750	250	2,750	250
Sub-Total Operating	\$5,250	\$5,250	\$2,750	\$5,250	\$2,750
Sub-Total Recurring	\$44,250	\$115,750	\$184,250	\$187,250	\$184,750
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$47,250	\$120,750	\$189,250	\$187,250	\$184,750
(A+B)					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
II. Revenue					
Tuition and Fees ³		35,000	82,000	109,000	128,000
Institutional Reallocations	35,775	84,750	101,250	77,250	55,750
Federal Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Private Grants or Gifts ⁴	6,000	1,000	6,000	1,000	1,000
Other (In-Kind) ⁵	1,975	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES	\$43,750	\$120,750	\$189,250	\$187,250	\$184,250

Notes:

1. Includes wood and metal shop items as well as computers (Architecture Computer Lab was removed from TAF footprint), much of the equipment will be purchased from BFA in Architecture funds and will be shared with M. Arch. Program and any applicable earmarked fees for the program.
2. Does not include the \$500,000 contribution to fund the Henry Turley Residency Program.
3. All ARCH courses are assessed a \$20 per credit hour fee. The represents fees earned from graduate courses. Monies collected from the undergraduate courses will also be used to fund program -wide improvements, and are included in Institutional Reallocations
4. Includes only current commitments from Looney Ricks Kiss Architects, and HBH Associates. Additional gifts are anticipated once the M.Arch. is approved. Does not include ongoing Stealcase funding for Sustainable Design Demonstration House project.
5. Includes only current equipment contributions from Williamson Pounders Architects. Additional in-kind and other contributions are anticipated once the M.Arch Is approved.

Special Funding Sources: All students enrolled in an ARCH prefix course at the University of Memphis are assessed a \$20 per credit hour fee. These funds may be used for a variety of purposes to enhance the quality of education for architecture students. Many of the operating and other needs of the M.Arch. degree program will be funded in part through these fees as is presently done for the BFA in Architecture program. Virtually all of the needs would be shared between the M.Arch. and BFA in Architecture degree programs. Based on current undergraduate course enrollments and projected M.Arch. enrollments after full implementation, the annual student fee total would be approximately \$45,000.

1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first five years following approval. The review will be based on benchmarks established in the approved program proposal. At the end of this period, campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. The benchmarks include, but are not limited to, enrollment and graduation, program cost, progress toward accreditation, library acquisitions, student performance, and others set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. As a result of this evaluation, if benchmarks are not met during the monitoring period, the Commission may recommend that the governing board terminate the program. The Commission may choose to extend the period if additional time is needed and requested by the governing board.