Response to Visiting Team Report on M.Arch Program Review
Institution: School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Douglas Pancoast
Date: January 29th, 2024

Program Review: November 2023
2020 Conditions for Accreditation
2020 Procedures for Accreditation

Terms:
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago: (SAIC)
- M.Arch program resides in the Architecture, Interior Architecture and Designed Objects Department, which is reorganizing with the Historic Preservation Program (AIADO+HP)

On behalf of the Architecture, Interior Architecture and Design Objects Department, the M.Arch program and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, thank you for the opportunity to respond to the The Visiting Team Report produced by the NAAB visiting team for the 2023 M.Arch program review.

The NAAB Visiting Team indicated the following conditions not met:

3 Program + Student Criteria

PC.1 Career Paths
PC.2 Design
PC.3 Ecological Knowledge and Resp.
PC.4 History and Theory
PC.5 Research and Innovation
PC.6 Leadership and Collaboration
PC.7 Learning and Teaching Culture
PC.8 Social Equity and Inclusion
SC.1 Health, Safety and Welfare in the Built Environment
SC.2 Professional Practice
SC.3 Regulatory Context
SC.4 Technical Knowledge
SC.5 Design Synthesis
SC.6 Building Integration

4 Curricular Framework

4.3.1 Evaluation of Preparatory Education
4.3.3 Articulated the evaluation of baccalaureate-degree in admissions

5 Resources

5.2.1 Multi year strategic objectives as part of the larger institutional strategic planning and assessment efforts
5.2.2 Key performance indicators used by the unit and the institution
5.2.3 Progress toward its mission and stated multiyear objectives
5.2.4 Strengths, challenges, and opportunities to improve learning outcomes and opportunities
5.2.5 Ongoing outside input from others, including practitioners
5.4.1 Demonstrate that it balances the workloads of all faculty in a way that promotes student and faculty achievement.
5.4.2 Demonstrate that it has an Architect Licensing Advisor

5.4.3 Demonstrate that faculty and staff have opportunities to pursue professional development that contributes to program improvement
5.4.4 Describe the support services available to students in the program [academic and personal advising, mental well-being, career guidance, internship, and job placement]

6 Public Information

6.1 Statement on NAAB-Accredited Degrees [link]

The links to this statement may have been broken at the time of the submission of the APR due to a new School-wide website. This condition is now met, please see the above hyperlink.

General responses to conditions not met

Assessment

Relative to PC and SC criteria, the visiting team report on the review of the M.Arch program firmly foregrounded the lack of robust per class, per criteria assessment documentation material as the significant reason for not meeting criteria requirements.

To address this fully and comprehensively the program has developed and implemented an extensive per criteria, per class assessment system for reviewing student performance relative to an evaluation rubric modeled on the NAAB rubric template.

The program will implement the review rubric into the SAIC Learning Management System (Canvas) in order to make the process of evaluation of student learning outcomes available to all faculty, easy to use and centrally updateable. The program will collect rubric based assessments yearly and review them for student learning outcomes. This will inform curriculum revision discussions with faculty and relevant institutional offices.

Outcomes of those rubric reviews leading to proposed curriculum modifications will be presented to the SAIC curriculum committee as course change recommendations, then implemented via yearly M.Arch course review and scheduling processes with full time faculty and departmental administration.

Faculty support and resources

Relative to support for faculty and staff, the visiting team report on the review of the M.Arch program expressed concern for appropriate resources for faculty and staff development, workload balancing and extra-curricular measures that contribute program improvement.

The administration is reviewing resources for producing a task and workload audit for M.Arch related work including: the Department Chair, Graduate Coordinator, Undergraduate Coordinator, NCARB Coordinator, NAAB Coordinator, DEI Coordinator, Assessment coordinator, administrative staff and full time faculty typical loads and adjunct faculty loads.