New Program Proposal
Master of Landscape Architecture
Clemson University

Summary

Clemson University requests approval to offer a program leading to the Master of Landscape Architecture degree in Landscape Architecture, to be implemented in Fall 2005. The proposed program will be offered through the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities.

The program was approved by the Clemson University Board of Trustees at its meeting on October 25, 2002. It was submitted for Commission review on November 12, 2004, and reviewed and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) at its meeting on January 20, 2005. There were no substantive comments or questions about the proposed program.

The purpose of the program is to prepare graduates to handle complex environmental and social problems through design, planning and management of the landscape. According to the proposal, the program will build on Clemson's strengths in active outreach and applied research to develop leaders in the profession and to interact with other campus programs and Centers (such as the recently approved Center for Community Growth and Change) to enhance research, collaboration, and student involvement. The proposal also states that emphasis will be on the First Professional degree, but that there will be some room for a select few Second Professional degree students from the ranks of Clemson's B.L.A. program.

The proposed program would be the only one of its type in the state. Clemson bases its needs analysis on the rapid growth of the state, especially the coastal and I-85 areas; a shift from rural to urban populations; and the pressures put on the environment by these changes in population size and concentration. The proposal anticipates that the graduates of the program will have a positive impact on the state by being an influence for controlled growth that takes into account history, environmental ethics, and social accountability. Clemson predicts that, while the program will be national in scope, many graduates will stay in the region. Employment opportunities range from faculty appointments to self-employment, with a large variety of government and private opportunities for employment. The proposal supports these projections with data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, which states that employment in the field is "expected to increase faster than the average of all occupations through the year 2015."

The curriculum for the First Professional program assumes that students will enter from a wide variety of majors and need extensive preparation in basic undergraduate courses (co-requisite proficiency requirements) to prepare them for graduate work in landscape architecture. Students in this program will be required to take a total of 99 credits: 45 credits in co-requisite proficiency requirements, 48 credits in 800-level courses, and six credits of 600-level courses. Second Professional students, who by definition will have completed a B.L.A. degree program and do not need the co-requisite proficiency requirements, will take a total of 51 credit hours. The program will require that ten new courses be added to the course catalogue.

The proposed program will be the only one of its kind in the state. The closest programs outside of South Carolina are at the University of Georgia and at North Carolina State University.

The program will require one new faculty member (1 FTE), to be hired in the second year of the program. Nine existing faculty in the B. L. A. program will provide support equivalent to 1.5 FTE. In subsequent years, as enrollment grows, that support will increase to 3.5 FTE, for a total of ten faculty (4.5 FTE). One new staff member (.25 FTE) and one administrator (.25 FTE) will be hired in the first year.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at seven headcount (4.2. FTE) in Fall 2005 and increase to 34 headcount (21.5 FTE) in Fall 2009. In the first year, the proposal projects that five of the students will be in the First Professional program, with that number increasing to 30 in Fall 2009. The projected enrollment is sufficient to meet Commission productivity standards. The proposal states that the program's emphasis on community change, health and design is unique in the region, and that the faculty expertise and reputation will enable the program to draw from an international pool of applicants.

Clemson intends to pursue accreditation for the First Professional program by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board as soon as the program is established.

Adequate space for the first year of the program will be available in Lee Hall. According to the space projections included in the proposal, additional space will need to be found for the second and subsequent years. The proposal indicates that existing plans for expansion of the Landscape Architecture program into an existing building, Stroud Hall, will satisfy future space needs.

The proposal includes a comparison of program-related library holdings to those of universities with similar programs. These universities – Texas A&M, the University of Oregon, and the University of Minnesota – all have holdings which far exceed those at Clemson. After comparing Clemson's rate of acquisitions of monographic materials with

those of Texas A&M, the proposal estimates that the addition of 100 new items per year, at a total cost of $6000, will allow Clemson to "keep up with" Texas A&M. Clemson's current holdings of program-related materials published after 1998 (861 items) is half (50.2%) that of Texas A&M (1712 items). They are 47.6% of the University of Oregon's and only 27% of the University of Minnesota's. Differences in total program-related holdings are similar. The proposed acquisitions plan does nothing to actually close these gaps.

New costs for the program are estimated to begin at $201,438 in year one and include program administration ($31,150), faculty salaries ($78,788), graduate assistants ($45,000), clerical support ($10,000), supplies and materials ($1,000), library resources ($6,000), equipment ($6,500), facilities ($2,000), visiting scholars ($8,000), professional development ($5,000), and recruitment ($8,000). Estimated costs increase to $307,037 in the second year, with the primary increases being in faculty salaries ($133,152) and graduate assistants ($90,000). By the fifth year, the annual costs are $505,932 and include program administration ($35,153), faculty salaries ($255,324), graduate assistants ($150,000), clerical support ($11,255), supplies and materials ($2,700), library resources ($6,000), equipment ($10,000), facilities ($500), visiting scholars ($22,000), professional development ($8,000), and recruitment ($5,000). The total estimated new cost is $1,955,835 for the program's first five years.

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first five years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Extraordinary (Non-MRR) Costs for Proposed Program	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
Year 1	$326,182		$326,182	$0	$92,068	$92,068
Year 2	$859,682		$859,682	78,473	$242,972	$321,445
Year 3	$1,350,336		$1,350,336	207,742	$382,341	$590,082
Year 4	$1,557,655		$1,557,655	325,927	$441,176	$767,103
Year 5	$1,557,655		$1,557,655	376,723	$441,176	$817,899

These data demonstrate that if Clemson University can meet the projected student enrollments and contain costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will not be able to cover new costs with revenues it generates by the fifth year of its implementation.

In summary, Clemson University is proposing a program leading to the Masters of Landscape Architecture degree in Landscape Architecture to begin in the Fall of 2005. The program, unique to the state, will prepare graduates to work in landscape architecture related fields ranging from university faculty to private practice. The program will include both First and Second Professional degrees and will draw students from a variety of disciplines, states, and nations.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the program at Clemson University leading to the Masters of Landscape Architecture degree with a major in Landscape Architecture, to be implemented in Fall 2005, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested, and provided further that funding is provided to increase substantially program-related library holdings.