UVA SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

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NAAB Board of Directors
ATTN: Sarah Frazier
Manager of Accreditation
National Architectural Accrediting Board
August 1st, 2023

UVA M.Arch Program Response to VTR

The University of Virginia School of Architecture would like to report that immediately following the continuing accreditation visit in March we made progress in response to feedback provided in the Visiting Team's Report. In March the team found that we did not provide evidence showing an active Architect Licensing Advisor (ALA) – Section 5.4.2 – and thus 5.4 Human Resources and Human Resource Development was identified as Not Demonstrated. In April, the Program Director and Department Chair meet with our Career Development Office and Assistant Professor Schaeffer Somers, our ALA. We made plans to improve coordination, advertisement, and accesss for ALA activities as described below.

The Career Development Office coordinates the UVA School of Architecture's approach to supporting student licensing information distribution and advising by a member of the Dept. of Architecture faculty who is a Registered Architect and serves as Licensing Advisor for NCARB. The faculty member serves for two years and works with Career Development to organize an annual meeting with architecture students to provide information on licensing and answer questions. The UVA AIAS chapter representatives also co-host the meeting. The school hosted a meeting this past academic year on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 and will host this academic year's annual event in the Fall 2023 or Spring 2024 semester. The school also maintains content related to licensure on the Career Development webpage with links to the Licensing Advisor's profile and publicly available resources on the NCARB website. In the future, we will create and maintain a page of Frequently Asked Questions for students, which will be the responsibility of the Licensing Advisor to monitor and update. The Licensing Advisor will post weekly office hours to meet with individual students and respond to questions about becoming a licensed architect.

We greatly appreciate the visiting team's feedback and help with identifying this area of insufficient evidence. It has helped us clear up roles and responsibilities within our Career Development Office.

The VTR also noted deficiencies related to the school's physical space. Although this is necessarily a longer term issue, the school received Board of Visitor's approval in the summer of 2022 to proceed with fundraising and design for a future expansion project.

Sincerely,

Seth McDowell
Associate Professor /// Graduate Architecture Program Director
University of Virginia /// School of Architecture

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