



Item: AS: A-4

## COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PROGRAM REVIEW – DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS**

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### PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Request approval of program review for the Architecture degree program in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Under Florida Board of Governors Regulation 6C-8.015 adopted March 29, 2007, all academic degree programs in State universities must be reviewed at least every seven years. Program reviews ensure that academic programs are administered and delivered effectively, efficiently, and consistent with FAU's mission and the Board of Governors' strategic priorities. The results of program reviews are expected to inform strategic planning, program development, and budgeting decisions at the university level, and, when appropriate, at the state level.

Academic Program Review at FAU includes a few additional steps:

- The self-study prepared by the program's department will be submitted to an independent review committee comprised of 2-5 individuals. The committee will include at least one external reviewer who will serve as a content expert in the discipline. Other members will include nominees of the head of the academic unit in consultation with the unit's faculty.
- The external reviewer will conduct a day and a half site-visit. A written report of the reviewer's findings was submitted to the program's review committee.
- In addition to self-studies and external reviewer reports, departmental responses and action plans were prepared.
- An executive summary will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The Architecture degree program in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters was reviewed this year.

### IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Academic Program Review summary will be submitted to the BOG in November 2021 pending full Board approval.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

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**Supporting Documentation: 2021 Academic Program Review Executive Summary, PowerPoint presentation**

**Presented by: Dr. Bret Danilowicz, Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost**

**Phone: 561.297.6350**



## **2020 Academic Program Review Executive Summary**

School of Architecture

Architecture [CIP 04.0201]

### **Review Team**

Rashida Ng (Temple University)

Michelle A. Rinehart (Georgia Institute of Technology)

William O'Brien (Florida Atlantic University)

### **Part 1: Overview**

#### **A. Degree Programs by Level**

**Bachelor's (BA):** Architecture (BArch)

#### **B. Mission and Purpose**

The mission of the Florida Atlantic University School of Architecture is to advance education, research, and design solutions that enhance the quality of built environments. The program is situated within South Florida's dynamic coastal and urban environment, providing a laboratory for investigating new tools and methods of design in an era of disruption. The School promotes integrative and innovative design in preparation for architectural practice. Students develop critical thinking skills and knowledge through exposure to historical and theoretical foundations, emerging technologies, interdisciplinary research, community engagement, and ethical responsibilities of design, all within an environment that fosters equity and inclusion.

#### **C. Major changes since the last program review**

The largest change since the last Program Review was the move of the School of Architecture from a now defunct and renamed college into the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters. Equally important is the launching of CoDaT (the Center for Design and Technology) in Fort Lauderdale. The center is a partnership between Architecture, Graphic Design and Multimedia Studies. In addition, SoA has crafted a Mission Statement aligned with the University Strategic Plan. SoA has also established a stronger relationship with the local and state components of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), securing sponsorships and grant opportunities. Community engagement has also increased through SoA's MetroLab Collaborative. Since the

previous program review, the American Institute of Architecture Students has increased their activities and has a full slate of programming for students. In 2019, students also organized a National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA). Since the previous program review, curriculum has undergone examination and revisions, including partnerships with the Florida Center for Environmental Studies, and undergraduate research opportunities. SoA is also investigating the possibility of updating the program's CiP code. SoA established an Architectural Studies minor since the last program review and is an important partner in the new Master of Environmental Studies. The Institute for Design and Construction (IDaC) has grown the SoA's self-sustaining programs and is developing plans for an Executive Master's of Design and a Real Estate Development Degree. SoA's MetroLab has been relocated to an improved space downtown, and SoA has improved its international reach with partnerships with international universities.

## **Part 2: Findings**

### **A. Strengths**

1. The review team identifies the accreditation of the five-year Bachelor of Architecture degree as an important strength as it gives students a clear path toward licensure in the field and thus gainful employment. A five-year degree in Architecture is the shortest path to licensure and employment in the field according to the NAAB accrediting body and gives the best opportunity to a range of diverse students, racially, ethnically, and financially.
2. The location of the School on the Las Olas Fort Lauderdale campus was identified as a strength, along with the School's Institute for Design and Construction (IDaC) located there, as it provides for synergy and partnership with the local professional community. IDaC allows the School of Architecture to continue to provide educational opportunities to design and construction professionals. Related, the review team was encouraged by the recent founding of CoDaT (Center for Design Arts and Technology) as a way to build upon the location strength and bring more students to the Fort Lauderdale campus.
3. The location of the School of Architecture more broadly in South Florida was also deemed an important strength by the reviewers, as the School uses its unique geographic, environmental and social conditions as a laboratory for students to work on important problems of sea-level rise and resilience. In addition, the culturally and economically diverse regions of Palm Beach and Broward counties give students a range of problems, projects, and solutions on which to work.
4. The review team identifies the collegiality and community spirit of the School as an important strength, as faculty, students, and community work together for the good of the program and the community around it. This contributes both to student success and programmatic success.

### **B. Challenges**

1. Currently, the school has an interim director, rather than permanent long-term leadership. The review team identifies the hiring of a permanent director as imperative for the program's success.
2. The review team notes that some students feel isolated due to the location of the School of Architecture in Boca Raton (on the northern fringe of the campus) and on the Fort Lauderdale campus, isolated from the majority of the student body in Boca Raton.
3. The review team notes a disconnection between the lower division curriculum and the upper division curriculum, particularly as the first two years of curriculum are often completed elsewhere. This can be difficult pedagogically, as the SoA cannot always know with what skills students will arrive.
4. The review team expresses concern at growing class sizes in recent years which make hands-on studio courses more difficult to deliver, leaving less time for each student to practice their skills.
5. The review team notes that the five-year degree presents financial challenges to students. A fifth year is more expensive, as graduate credits cost more and financial aid often only lasts four years.

6. The team identifies the low pay scale for adjuncts as a challenge for the school, as it is imperative to have quality instruction from this group of faculty members. With increasing online instruction at all universities, adjuncts will have more opportunity to work elsewhere if adjunct pay is not competitive

### **C. Recommendations and Opportunities**

1. The program review team notes the opportunities present in the developing Center for Design Arts and Technology (CoDaT) in the downtown Fort Lauderdale campus. With the School of Architecture's move to the College of Arts and Letters, the College is creating synergies in Fort Lauderdale by moving related fields/departments onto the same campus. Architecture will now share space with Graphic Design and Multimedia Studies. This brings together creative disciplines, allowing students to combine various elements of design into a profile even more desirable for today's job market. The review team encourages Architecture's role in CoDaT and notes how it can help contribute to various elements of FAU's Strategic Plan. The expansion and growth of CoDaT can also help solve the feelings of social isolation some students in Architecture feel, as more students from the other design/artistic fields in the College of Arts and Letters move to the Tower building on the Fort Lauderdale campus. The review team expressed hope that this could lead to the expansion of student services, dining plans, etc., as well as a more robust slate of activities for architecture student groups. Likewise, CoDaT can provide research synergies that can lead to interdisciplinary research and grants. Finally, the review team encouraged the exploration of an academic unit revolving around CoDaT.
2. The review team recommends further expansion into self-sustaining program and notes how IDaC is a perfect vehicle through which to do so. Self-sustaining degree programs, certificate programs, and stackable credentials can be built and offered through IDaC.
3. The review team recommends restructuring the curriculum, providing more opportunities for digital design in the lower division curriculum and thus unburdening the overloading of the curriculum in the upper division. Doing so should allow students to progress and complete the degree more easily and with less associated stress. Likewise, the review team recommends more instruction by full-time faculty in the lower division, rather than relying so heavily on adjuncts. This may require the hiring of more full-time faculty. Finally, the review team recommends an increase in undergraduate research opportunities in order to give students practical training and prepare them for the workforce.
4. The review team commends FAU's recent diversity and inclusion initiatives and encourages the School of Architecture to explore where and how implicit bias may disadvantage students of color in the School and take steps to minimize or eliminate that bias.
5. The review team recommends means of providing more financial support to fifth year students (perhaps through IDaC/self-sustaining programs) in order to alleviate the burden discussed above.

The review team recommends raising the pay to adjunct faculty and the hiring of additional full-time faculty, a move that would decrease the reliance on adjuncts and limit class sizes.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

# Dorothy F. Schmidt

## College of Arts and Letters

Academic Program Review

School of Architecture

ARTS AND LETTERS

Board of Trustees  
Committee on Academic  
and Student Affairs  
November, 2021



## COLLEGE OVERVIEW

### **SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

Music, Theatre & Dance,  
Visual Arts & Art History,  
Creative Writing, Theatre Lab  
and the University Galleries

### **SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE**

### **HUMANITIES**

English; History; Languages,  
Linguistics & Comparative  
Literature; Philosophy

### **SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION & MULTIMEDIA STUDIES**

### **SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Anthropology, Political Science  
and Sociology

### **SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

### **PEACE, JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

University platform including the  
Arthur and Emalie Gutterman  
Family Center for Holocaust and  
Human Rights Education and the  
Leon Charney Diplomacy Program

### **SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

Body, Mind & Culture;  
Women, Gender & Sexuality  
Studies; Comparative Studies (Ph.D.);  
Data Science in Society (MS);  
Global Studies; Jewish Studies;  
and the Study of Values and  
Violence after Auschwitz

*...and so much more!*

# 2020-2021 Program Review

Dorothy F. Schmidt

College of Arts and Letters

School of Architecture

Review Team:

Rashida Ng (Temple University)

Michelle A. Rinehart (Georgia Institute of Technology)

William O' Brien (Florida Atlantic University)



“Architecture is not so much a knowledge of form, but a form of knowledge”—Bernard Tschumi



# School of Architecture

## Degrees

Bachelor's in Architecture (BArch)

Undergraduate Majors: 173

Faculty: 10 tenured or tenure-line,  
1 full-time instructor



The Tower building on the Las Olas Campus, housing the School of Architecture and IDaC

# School of Architecture Program Highlights



Associate Professor Jeff Huber was recently elevated to the College of Fellows within the American Institute of Architects. This is AIA's highest membership honor, given in recognition of exceptional work and contributions to architecture and society.



The School of Architecture joined with programs in Graphic Design and Multimedia Studies to form CoDaT (the Center for Design and Technology) on the Ft. Lauderdale campus, creating cutting edge synergy for FAU curriculum and community engagement.



The Institute for Design and Construction (IDaC) administers the School of Architecture's self-sustaining programs, offering a certificate program in Construction Management and a 14-Hour course for contractor Florida License Renewal. IDaC also offers courses and programs in Construction Technology, Digital Tools for Construction, Design, Exam Preparation, Construction Safety Science, and in the use of SoA's FabLab. IDaC provides a community service and generates resources for the School of Architecture

# School of Architecture

## Selected Program Review Recommendations

- Hire a dedicated Director for the program
- Expand and grow CoDaT in terms of curriculum and research, allowing a corresponding expansion of student services
- Expand offerings in self-sustaining programs through IDaC
- Restructure the undergraduate curriculum
  
- **Actions to be taken in response:**
  - Undertake a national search for a new Director, under way in 2021-22.
  - Continue to work closely with the other CoDaT stakeholders on collaborative research opportunities, and to create interdisciplinary curricula that attract students.
  - Continue developing new self-sustaining programs and building on current ones through IDaC, including in construction management, helping to fund other programmatic needs.
  - Re-examine and restructure the undergraduate curriculum to allow for more digital design instruction in the lower division and to better tailor the undergraduate program to the varying types of students being served (transfer, FTIC, etc.)