

DATE: July 26, 2007

SUBJECT: The University of Tennessee Knoxville, Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA, MA, MS)

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Graduation from a program accredited through the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) is required for Tennesseans seeking licensure as a Landscape Architect. Tennessee is one of 48 states that licenses the title of Landscape Architect; exams are administered by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards and the Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners. Since there are no accredited programs in Landscape Architecture in Tennessee, Tennesseans wishing to pursue careers in Landscape Architecture must pursue their educational credentials elsewhere.

About half of the landscape architectural work performed in Tennessee is being done by out-of-state registrants. The value of construction projects generated by landscape architects was estimated to be about \$500 million in the period from 2003 to 2005 (from the Tennessee Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects 2006 survey).

PROPOSED START-UP DATE: Fall 2008

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 core values of the proposed graduate program in Landscape Architecture are based on a design-centered curriculum that promotes ethical imperatives, critical thinking, and sustainable practices. These values underscore the responsibility of landscape stewardship. The program is committed to preparing students for leadership roles in the professional practice of landscape architecture and related career paths.

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: The proposed program will be delivered through cooperation between the College of Architecture and Design and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Faculty in both colleges are responsible for the delivery of the curriculum. Twenty new courses will be required, primarily to support the licensure program.

Licensure curriculum. The first-professional degree (MLA) is designed largely to fill the needs of the profession and will lead to licensure and professional practice. Typical career paths include working in private or public practice for landscape architecture firms, landscape architecture units within engineering firms, federal, regional, state, and municipal government agencies, and

universities and colleges requiring professional licensure.

Research and Design Curricula. A second track in the program -- the MS, and the MA degrees in Landscape Architecture -- is intended for students pursuing research and design work in the field, but do not seek to become registered professional practitioners. Such research might include the historical and theoretical dimensions of designed landscapes, complex large-scale hydrology systems, restoration of wetlands and streambeds, and aquatic reclamation. The program will enable students and faculty to be engaged in research and scholarship and to pursue research grants through the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation, Department of Transportation, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, and other federal and state agencies. While the majority of students will seek the first professional degree, others will seek the non-professional research and design-oriented MA and MS degrees.

The three degree options are anchored by core courses and are distinguished by their length of study and the nature of each degree's thesis. The MLA and MA conclude with a design-based thesis; the MS concludes in a research-based thesis. Students entering the program will come from a variety of academic backgrounds, including students who have little or no previous formal training in the field of landscape architecture. The curriculum requirements are:

Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)

3-year program (84 credit hours including a thesis). For students without a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from a Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB)-accredited program.

2-year program (60 credit hours including a thesis). For students with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from an LAAB-accredited program.

MA in Landscape Architecture (30 credit hours including a thesis)

MS in Landscape Architecture (30 credit hours including a thesis)

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS: In addition to meeting the Graduate School's minimum requirements, applicants must meet program-specific requirements. The Graduate Record Examination (general test) is required of all applicants.

Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA). Applicants must submit an essay, three letters of recommendation, and a portfolio illustrating evidence of visual creativity and/or graphic capabilities.

3-year program: Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree with 3.0 GPA from an accredited institution. Applicants with less than a 3.0 may be considered for conditional admission where evidence of exceptional promise is identified.

2-year program: Applicants must have a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from an LAAB-accredited program and a 3.0 GPA. Applicants with less than a 3.0 may be considered for conditional admission where evidence of exceptional promise is identified.

MA/MS in Landscape Architecture. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree. Applicants must identify a specific area of research aligned with the general goals of the Landscape Architecture Graduate program and the existing research interests of the standing faculty, not limited to the College of Architecture and Design and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

The proposed program is expected to draw from the existing UTK Bachelor’s of Plant Sciences/Landscape Design and Construction and the existing Bachelor’s of Architecture as “feeder” programs.

Projected Program Productivity:

Year	Full-time Headcount	Part-time Headcount	FTE	Graduates
1	6	0	6	0
2	14	0	14	0
3	24	0	24	6

1.1.20D FACULTY: Currently 3 FTE faculty are available from the two sponsoring colleges. The two colleges and the UTK central administration have reallocated existing resources to fund one new faculty line each for three new FTE faculty. A total of 6 FTE faculty will be dedicated to the program.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: Libraries associated with the two sponsoring colleges have sufficient resources in the form of books and periodicals to support existing related departments. The University has committed \$2,000 per year for the next five years to enhance resources and databases.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: The proposed program will be administratively housed in the College of Architecture and Design. It is cross-disciplinary in scope, calling upon the resources of the College of Architecture and Design and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: An additional .5 FTE clerical staff and a .33 FTE instructional technology staff will be added. Further, the budget includes 4.5 FTE Graduate Assistantships from tuition and fee waivers at a total of \$30,000 in year 1, \$60,000 in year 2, and \$90,000 in years 3-5.

1.1.20H FACILITIES/INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT: No new instructional facilities will be needed. The proposed budget projects an additional \$15,000 computer equipment enhancement and a \$36,000 studio equipment addition.

1.1.20I STUDENT/EMPLOYER DEMANDS: Landscape Architects plan and design parks, residential developments, campuses, gardens, commercial centers, resorts, transportation facilities, corporate and institutional centers, waterfront developments, and many other public and private spaces. They design and plan restoration and reclamation of wetlands, stream corridors, mined areas and deforested lands. They plan preservation projects for national, regional, and local historic sites and areas. Working with architects, city planners, and civil engineers, landscape architects play

an important role in environmental projection.

According to the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture there is a national shortage of practicing professionals. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics finds the job outlook for landscape architects is expected to increase faster than the average for all professions through the next decade. According to a 2006 survey of the Tennessee chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Tennessee firms currently need close to 65 professionals and will need up to 110 new hires within the next three years. Of the 313 landscape architects registered in Tennessee, most are 40 years of age or older, and 60 are expected to retire within the next five years.

As an indicator of student interest, the Department of Plant Sciences polled the 84 students enrolled in the Landscape Design and Construction concentration of that major. Over one-third responded, and of the respondents, 89 percent indicated they would pursue a graduate degree in landscape architecture if one were offered by the University of Tennessee. Academic Common Market (ACM) access has been open to Tennesseans pursuing the program, but fewer seats are becoming available because of demands for licensed landscape architects in ACM states.

1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION: No other accredited programs of landscape architecture are offered in Tennessee.

1.1.20K COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS: N/A

1.1.20I ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION: The program will seek full accreditation in 2011 through the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB), a specialized accrediting agency that accredits education programs leading to the first professional degree. In addition, the University of Tennessee Knoxville conducts periodically academic program reviews to improve the quality of academic offerings to achieve best use of available resources and to foster cooperation among academic units. The University maintains that establishing the program at the master's as the first professional degree rather than at the baccalaureate level will be a more efficient use of resources and will serve more students who can enter the field through a variety of undergraduate majors.

1.1.2M ARTICULATION: N/A

1.1.20N EXTERNAL JUDGMENT: The program proposal was evaluated by Gene Bressler, Professor and Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture, College of Design, North Carolina State University. Mr. Bressler found ample evidence of need for the program. He found the proposed curriculum, courses, and proposed course sequences well conceived and positioning the program well for successful initial accreditation. He found existing and committed resources adequate and academic standards reflective of quality expectations of the profession. Mr. Bressler enthusiastically endorsed the program proposal.

1.1.200 COST/BENEFIT/SOURCE:

THEC Financial Estimate Form
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
MLA, MS, & MA with a Major in Landscape Architecture

Five-year projections are required for baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate programs and certificates. Three-year projections are required for associate degrees and undergraduate 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	12,000	12,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Library	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Consultants	2,500	-	7,500	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-
Other	3,000	3,000	3,000	-	-
Sub-Total One-time	\$ 19,500	\$ 17,000	\$ 15,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
B. Recurring Expenditures					
Personnel					
Administration					
Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total Administration	-	-	-	-	-
Faculty					
Salary	\$147,000	\$258,340	\$304,546	\$321,382	\$326,009
Benefits	32,760	48,815	49,792	50,787	51,803
Sub-Total Faculty	\$179,760	\$307,155	\$354,338	\$372,169	\$377,812
Support Staff					
Salary	\$15,300	\$30,606	\$ 31,218	\$31,842	\$ 32,479
Benefits	4,284	8,569	8,741	8,915	9,094
Sub-Total Support Staff	\$ 19,584	\$ 39,175	\$ 39,959	\$ 40,757	\$ 41,573
Operating					
Travel	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Printing	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Other	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Sub-Total Operating	\$ 5,000	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
Total Recurring	\$204,344	\$352,830	\$400,797	\$419,426	\$425,885
TOTAL (A+B)					
EXPENDITURES	\$223,844	\$369,830	\$416,297	\$424,426	\$430,885

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>
II. Revenue					
Tuition and Fees ¹	76,392	160,423	252,666	265,300	278,565
Institutional Reallocations ²	147,452	209,407	163,631	159,126	152,320
Federal Grants ³	-	-	-	-	-
Private Grants or Gifts ⁴	-	-	-	-	-
Other ⁵	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$223,844</u>	<u>\$369,830</u>	<u>\$416,297</u>	<u>\$424,426</u>	<u>\$430,885</u>

Notes:

1. Tuition & fees revenue is shown for year 1, with the program start-up planned for fall semester 2008.
2. Reallocations are from the College of Architecture & Design (Architecture Section), the College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (UT Institute of Agriculture), & the UTK Provost's Office. Should possible contract, gift, &/or grant funds materialize, these will be assigned to the proposed program& other reallocations will be used elsewhere.

1.1.3P 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.