

National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc.

September 14, 2007

Ms. Kim Tanzer  
President  
ACSA  
1735 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20006



RE: Accreditation Review Conference Task Force Work Groups

Dear Kim:

Thank you for the engagement of ACSA in the accreditation review process being undertaken by NAAB. Through the integrated participation of all collaterals in this undertaking, we are expecting to significantly improve architectural accreditation outcomes in the future. At the end of this letter you will find a list of ACSA appointees to the NAAB Accreditation Review Conference Task Force (ARC TF) work groups and the respective chairs. The chair of each work group will be in contact with their members during the next several weeks to begin the efforts of the work groups.

Each of the collaterals has undertaken efforts of their own to explore ways that NAAB's accreditation process can be improved. We welcome and encourage those insights. We hope that ACSA representatives on the ARC TF will become your primary conduit into the evolving efforts. This however is not your only means for input; following are various opportunities for further dialogue:

- NAAB leaders will be attending collateral events during the next year and will be seeking thoughts from you at each opportunity.
- Our first survey results, collected from nearly 1000 participants throughout the profession, are currently being tabulated. The results identify perceptions of the issues that are of greatest importance to the future of architectural accreditation. We will be releasing several more short surveys to obtain more in depth feedback on various topics.
- NAAB is launching a new website in October that will provide access to the results and emerging thoughts generated by the architectural accreditation review process. Once launched, we hope you will access [www.naab.org](http://www.naab.org) frequently to monitor the progress, see the contributions of participants, and offer your insights.
- Several collaterals are preparing issue papers, collecting priorities for architectural education from within their constituencies, or initiating their own surveys. We look forward to receiving the results of those efforts, no later than February 1, 2008, and we ask that we be permitted to post these in whole or in summary on the ARC portion of the NAAB website. These valuable contributions will become early inputs to the review and decision-making process and will be

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available to everyone who might have an interest in following and contributing via the website.

The accreditation review process is much like a design problem. A program is being prepared. Conceptual options will be explored. Choices and refinements will be made. The selected direction will be documented for implementation. You should be aware of key elements of our schedule:

- Oct 2007 Survey #1 results available at [www.naab.org](http://www.naab.org)
- Oct 2007 ARC TF work groups begin.
- Feb 2008 **End of data collection and programming phase – beginning of accreditation model design phase:** ARC TF work groups provide their initial insights and results to the NAAB Board along with any additional formal collateral input.
- Feb-July 2008 Informal reactions on posts to [www.naab.org](http://www.naab.org) accepted from collaterals and broader constituencies by the ARC TF members and work groups – emerging thoughts are vetted through the ARC TF work groups.
- July 2008 **Beginning of design development:** NAAB considers alternative accreditation concepts or refinements that have been developed by ARC TF work groups and a preferred choice is identified for further refinement.
- July-Sept 2008 The chosen direction is vetted through the ARC TF work groups.
- Oct 2008 **Design development presentation:** Accreditation Review Conference will be held; the accreditation model for the future will be presented to attendees for comment and critique.
- Nov 2008 **The contract documents phase begins:** The refined accreditation system concept will be translated into revised *Conditions* including Student Performance Criteria.
- Feb 2009 NAAB board approves draft of 2009 *Conditions for Accreditation* for distribution to collaterals for comment.
- May 2009 Final comments accepted from collaterals
- July 2009 NAAB Board **final approval** of 2009 *Conditions for Accreditation*.
- Aug 2009 **Implementation**
- Sept 2010 2009 *Conditions for Accreditation* are issued  
NAAB receives first APRs created using the 2009 *Conditions for Accreditation*.

- Spring 2011 First Visits are made using the new the 2009 *Conditions for Accreditation*.

Following is the list of task group assignments for ACSA volunteers:

**Emerging Accreditation Model**

**Wayne Drummond (Chair)**  
NAAB Representative

**Christine Theodoropoulos (Vice-chair)**  
NAAB Representative

**Marleen Davis**  
ACSA Representative

**Marilys Nepomechie**  
ACSA Representative

**Evolution of Conditions and SPCs**

A review of the current Conditions and SPC, focusing on organization, relevance, wording, redundancy, missing criteria, and updates that would reflect important and emerging issues of practice and education.

**Thomas Fowler, IV (Chair)**  
NAAB Representative

**Joan Wickersham (Vice-chair)**  
NAAB Representative

**Stan Allen**  
ACSA Representative

**Carmina Sanchez**  
ACSA Representative

**International/ Global Trends**

This group will examine the International/Global trends that are creating challenges for the professions.

**Douglas L. Steidl, FAIA (Chair)**  
NAAB Representative

**Frank M. Guillot, FAIA (Vice-chair)**  
NAAB Representative

**George Baird**  
ACSA Representative

**Keelan Kaiser**  
ACSA Representative

**Trends in Accreditation**

The mission of the "Trends in Accreditation" group is to help NAAB move the practice and image of architectural accreditation into the future in positive ways, while staying aligned with accreditation in other fields and with architectural accreditation worldwide.

**Joan Wickersham (Chair)**  
NAAB Representative

**Cathy Ryan (Vice-chair)**  
NAAB Representative

**Ken Schwartz**  
ACSA Representative

**Kim Tanzer**  
ACSA Representative

**Trends in Education**

The ubiquitous theme for this discussion group renders the production of a specific set of accreditation recommendations difficult. Instead, our discussions will aspire to well-informed brain-storming sessions amongst students, faculty, collateral representatives and invited guests. The end result of this work will hopefully be a small collection of very pointed, significant questions about the future of architectural education.

**Wayne A. Mortensen (Chair)**  
NAAB Representative

**Thomas Fowler, IV (Vice-chair)**  
NAAB Representative

**Sabir Khan**  
ACSA Representative

**Ted Landmark**  
ACSA Representative

**Trends in Regulation**

Evaluate the implications for architectural education of the trends and drivers of change in the regulation of the profession: such as interstate and international

professional mobility; the evolution of the internship process and concept of substantial equivalency for foreign programs.

**Frank M. Guillot, FAIA (Chair)**  
NAAB Representative

**Thomas Fowler, IV (Vice-chair)**  
NAAB Representative

**Wendy Ornelas**  
ACSA Representative

**Trends in the Professions**

Professions are defined and scrutinized in many ways and by differing groups, such as lawmakers, regulators, clients, professional organizations and the public perception. Many aspects of these definitions influence how professions change, adapt and redefine themselves. Some professions demand new knowledge, some specialize, others collaborate in order to expand their influence.

**Douglas L. Steidl, FAIA (Chair)**  
NAAB Representative

**Wayne A. Mortensen (Vice-chair)**  
NAAB Representative

**Loraine Fowlow**  
ACSA Representative

**Stephen Schreiber**  
ACSA Representative

Thank you for your commitment of resources – your people – to this very important task that will certainly have significant impact on the future of the architectural profession. Thank you in advance for your on-going contributions to the accreditation review process as it unfolds. If you have questions please contact Cathy Ryan at the NAAB office (cryan@naab.org or 202.783.6575), or feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Bruce E. Blackmer, FAIA  
Accreditation Review Conference Chair  
NAAB President-Elect

cc: Michael Monti, PhD