



## **California Baptist University College of Architecture, Visual Arts, + Design**

# **2016 Visiting Team Report (Continuation of Candidacy) Master of Architecture (168 total credits)**

### **I. Summary of Visit**

#### **a. Acknowledgements and Observations**

First, the team thanks Dean Mark Roberson, Assistant Professor Susan Duemer, and many others for creating a well-organized team room, providing complete program and course information, and facilitating an effective and informative visit. Their hard work prior to the visit helped make our time at California Baptist University (CBU) productive and enjoyable.

Vice Provost and Accreditation Liaison Officer Dr. DawnEllen Jacobs and Dean of the College of Engineering Dr. Anthony Donaldson also generously shared their time and insights into the new architecture program at CBU. It is clear that the administration and other departments share the goal of establishing an architecture program that is united with the university's vision.

The team has been astonished to witness the remarkable creation of an architecture program quite literally from scratch. Since his hiring as the founding dean of the College of Architecture, Visual Arts, + Design in 2011, Dean Roberson has created an approved curriculum, initiated the NAAB accreditation process, hired faculty, recruited students, and developed plans for a new college headquarters building. In addition to these nuts-and-bolts tasks, he has created a concrete vision of how the architecture program aligns with the core tenets of the university.

It is clear that the program enjoys the full support of the administration, faculty, students, and professional community toward the shared goal of a quality, Christian-based, professional architecture degree program. At every turn, resources, whether financial, personnel, equipment, or facility, are committed. By fulfilling the expectations of the administration and the educational desires of the students, by promoting the enthusiasm and dedication of the faculty, and by involving all these groups in the planning of the program, Dean Roberson has set the program on a course for success.

At the time of our visit, a cohort of 15 third-year students had been established as the presumptive Class of 2018. The student body is impressively diverse in terms of gender, race, and ethnicity. Students are articulate, authentic, and invested. The program appears on track to offer all required NAAB criteria, and the students appear on track to embrace these learning opportunities and make them their own. The program has made solid progress in addressing Conditions Not Met, Conditions Not Yet Met, and Causes of Concern that were identified in the Initial Candidacy Visit.

Many stakeholders, including both faculty and students, have voiced their excitement at the opportunity to help shape this architecture program from the very beginning. In this effort, the faculty may be able to provide valuable critical commentary on not only the direction and growth of the program, but also on the direction and growth of architectural education in general.

Challenges abound in the years ahead as a full body of students is enrolled, additional faculty are hired, workloads are redistributed, the curriculum and course content is refined, various program policies are fleshed out, and alumni become involved. The interim relocation of the architecture program to what is now the College of Engineering Building on Adams Street and the college's ultimate move into its new headquarters building (still being planned and funded) will create many opportunities for collaboration and exposure. One key to success will be the program's ability to keep all stakeholders unified around the original shared vision with the same commitment that has brought the program this far.

## **California Baptist University**

Visiting Team Report March 13–17, 2016