

Administrative Response to the Architectural Design and Drafting Program Review of April 24, 2009

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This administrative response is long overdue and for that I apologize. But a meeting with Steve Ward to bring myself up-to-date with the last year's activities and the current status has ensured me that no one in this program was standing still during this time. Your own program review and your professional astuteness told you what needed to happen....and you've already made a lot of that come to fruition.

Staffing

Staffing has grown stronger for ARCH this last year:

- The hiring of a new colleague with a strong background in sustainable building projects and extensive residential design experience will round out an already very solid Faculty;
- The addition of an AutoCAD Tutor, who will work jointly with ARCH, Machine Manufacturing Technology and Interior Design, not only offers an important service to students but offers the program one more person who can guide students in their career decisions;
- Strengthening your ability to teach AutoCAD using your own Faculty also enhances the program since you will now have Faculty who will be able to develop examples and projects that are more of what YOUR industry demands and gives our students more practical application;
- Focusing on the career enhancements of your PT Faculty is likewise important. As we grow, we naturally will depend on them more and more – until the next critical mass of students mandates our hiring another FT Faculty. So improving their technical and teaching skill sets is critical to maintaining the quality of the program. The NSF grant has certainly supported this effort;
- Your Resource Specialist is also a critical part of the staffing for this program. I would hope that they are in contact with your industry stakeholders and are able to disseminate their “read” on the industry clearly and honestly to our students;
- And, last but not least, I know we have two FT Faculty who have been and continue to be critical to the ongoing success of this program. One of them has been heavily involved with the NSF grant, including participating in an industry internship and traveling to Germany for an overseas workshop. Both instructors' every day, constant commitment to the program have made it the respected program that it is.

Collaboration

You have encouraged creativity – no more so than in the realm of collaboration:

- Close linkage to Interior Design and Building Construction in the creation of the Kitchen and Bath Design curriculum has been a model for other programs to envy and mimic;
- Sustainability has been a part of your program long before it became a national buzzword. By working with other programs, you've made it more than a buzzword – you've helped bring a

standard to its implementation that has given PCC the noteworthiness to capture your first NSF grants. I'm sure this will play a critical role in the next ones.

Curriculum

Part of the reason for our ability to keep your program vital is the effort that you have spent defining our goals and, obviously, checking back on them when you decide to make changes to our program. So many times, I've seen programs falter because when "times are good", they over-expand their offerings – trying to be all things to all aspects of the field(s) they support. While buoying up enrollments in the short run, this often waters down the coherency of the program, especially when the number of FT Faculty is small and such growth is only sustainable by a rapid hiring of PT Faculty. I encourage you to continue to monitor your growth, to make changes, to update courses, to add enhancements, but to do so very conscientiously so that the program is able to sustain itself in periods of retrenchment as well as in periods of growth.

On a more personal level I would also caution you to work hard to maintain a balance between growth and connectivity with your students. When a technical program is growing and changing, there is a lot for the entire Faculty – FT and PT – to learn and to do. You've had at least three new software programs that you've recently introduced to your program. While doing so is necessary to keep it vital, bear in mind that the time it takes for Faculty to learn how to use and teach this software has to come from somewhere. And it can often mean less time and energy spent with students. Consider how you might maintain a healthy balance between keeping the curriculum vital and spending time with students who need your personal attention. Both are important. Individually and collectively making a conscientious decision to give one emphasis over the other from term to term might be one way to maintain that important balance.

Recommendations

You're at a critical point right now. You have a wide range of focuses – locally, your immediate curriculum and collaborative efforts; regionally, the relationships you maintain with the industry partners that your program supports; nationally, your current and future involvements with the NSF.

I think you're up to the challenge that this range of responsibilities presents you with.

- You've probably more right sized that you've ever been with regard to staffing;
- Your curriculum is solid, up-to-date and, as PT Faculty become better and better trained, you'll find it to be more consistent;
- You've worked hard to position your program with regard to the next NSF grant.

You will continue the momentum you've already established if you

- Keep your primary goals in mind at all times;
- Make the NSF grant work for your students first and foremost. Others will benefit when you've been successful with and for them;

- Keep in close communication with your industry partners, be they small, medium or large companies; Support a representative, active Advisory Committee;
- Your offerings “peaked” last year and FTE has waned a bit with the loosening bonds between Drafting and ARCH. You’ll likely already working on helping to rebuild enrollments. I would caution that you do this with an honest view of the industry - not putting too many students out into the job market that doesn’t have a need. Monitoring that need is critical for everyone: Full- and Part-time Faculty, the Resource Specialist, the program Tutor and the Division Dean;
- Maintain what your Division Dean calls you’re ego-free collaboration. It is exemplary!

You’re on a good path. I would have you consider only two other possibilities:

- Starting with Denise’s trip to Germany, you’ve made an inroad into thinking about the internationalization of your curriculum. I would recommend that, if you haven’t already, you have a conversation with Bryan Hull, the FY12 chair of the Internationalization Committee, and others that he might recommend. See if there are further international connections to be made right here at PCC;
- And finally, with a view to the mid-range future, I’d like to have a conversation with you about the potential for the expansion of your program to the Newberg education Center once it’s up and running in its new location in Fall ’11. At present, all that is being offered there are General Education courses. But, eventually, the College will have to decide if a few Professional Technical programs have the potential for expansion in that direction of the District. Newberg has a growing senior community. It is also a community where, once the economy begins to recover, a relatively high growth rate is expected. There will likely be an expansion in residential building and remodeling. Finally, PCC is taking a leadership role in sustainable building in Newberg. The community leadership there will be looking to us to help expand on the example that we’re setting. All this points to a potential new environment for ARCH.

You might gather some statistics to see if some of your current student base comes from that area. Your Division Dean can help with this process. Then, I’d be happy to put you in touch with some of the leadership in the Newberg-Dundee area so that you might begin some investigation into the needs of the community. As I said, this is likely to be a mid-range endeavor – a 3-5 year process. But I think that, with your proven ability to pursue this kind of research, you are prepared to carry it out successfully.

It has been a pleasure to work with you these last few years. You and your program are what frequently made my job as DOI an interesting and exciting one. Thank you for that.