BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY
Master of Architecture

Recommendation

Bowling Green State University requests approval for a new Master of Architecture degree. The degree clearly meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate degree programs, and the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study voted unanimous approval for the proposed program. There were no serious concerns raised in the review.

Request: Bowling Green State University (BGSU) requests approval for a new professional Master of Architecture degree that will be administered by the new Department of Architecture within the College of Technology.

Program Purpose/Mission: The proposed Master of Architecture degree builds on the existing pre-professional degree in architecture, the Bachelor of Science in Technology. While the pre-professional program provides students with an architectural foundation, the proposed entry-level graduate program will prepare students to take leading roles in a professional working environment. The program will also provide opportunities for bachelor's level architecture practitioners and related employees in the region to return to school to receive a graduate degree. The proposed program includes concentrations in digital media in design and practice, urban and community design, and architectural history and historic preservation. These concentrations will integrate entrepreneurial theories and strategies to advance architectural design and practice. The proposed degree is aligned with the BGSU goal of fostering the influence of its fine arts, applied design, and cultural studies programs throughout the region.

The proposed Master of Architecture program prepares students for the process of architectural registration regulated by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. Because changes in state and national professional registration educational requirements limit professional advancement and practice opportunities for individuals who do not meet current registration criteria, the proposed program will also attract candidates who seek the opportunity to receive advanced professional education for licensure in the State of Ohio.

Enrollments: BGSU plans to enroll 14 students in the initial class and will maintain a cohort of 14 students entering each subsequent year. This will result in a maximum graduate enrollment of 28 full-time students. Based on projected faculty resources, this enrollment level will enable the architecture program at BGSU to maintain a student-faculty ratio of 14:1, which is consistent with professional graduate programs in peer institutions as well as with expectations of the National Architecture Accreditation Board (NAAB).

Curriculum: The proposed Master of Architecture curriculum consists of four semesters of coursework and an entrepreneurship assignment between the first and second academic years, for a total of 58 credit hours. The core course sequence of the proposed program consists of four studio courses (ARCH 621, 622, 631 and 632), a model which is consistent with the norms of professional programs in architecture. In parallel with each studio, the BGSU curriculum will require students to be enrolled in, or to have previously completed, courses with specific technical and professional content. This will enable studio projects to be structured to require students to integrate technical content with design and theory.

Faculty, Facilities and Resources: Currently, the faculty consists of one full professor, two associate professors, two lecturers, and two instructors. The university's central administration is fully committed to supporting the additional faculty and staff necessary to launch this advanced degree program. Specifically, two FTE instructional positions and one administrative staff position will be added.

A plan has been proposed to the university to combine the undergraduate and graduate programs' needs in the renovated Park Avenue Warehouse, a freestanding structure in close proximity to the Technology Building. This facility, planned to be operational at the time the Master of Architecture program is launched, will provide 28,000 square feet, including space for labs, studios, critique areas, lectures, and administrative and faculty offices.

Evidence of Need: At present, advanced architectural studies programs are not offered in northwest Ohio, so the establishment of the proposed program will make design education accessible to the area. BGSU's ongoing relationship with the Toledo Design Center and the Main Street project, part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation with the City of Bowling Green, will be expanded, making it possible for BGSU to have a significant impact on the cultural and economic life of the region. On a national level, the demand for graduate education in architecture exceeds the capacity of existing programs. Moreover, northwest Ohio is a high need area, as existing urban ecologies are in need of renewal and transformation. The international demand for professionals in architecture is evidenced by rapidly growing economies around the world, particularly in Asia and the Middle East. In those areas, there is a need for expertise in architecture, engineering, and construction to develop the infrastructure required for economic growth. This need also is reflected by the fact that prominent AEC firms in Northwest Ohio are providing services globally, which supports the international scope the Master of Architecture program and the associated emphasis on design entrepreneurship.

End of Comment Period: March 2, 2010
Comments Received – Favorable, See Attached Web Comments
Recommend Approval

Approved:	
Eric D. Pingerhut, Chancellor	3/18/10 Date

mlc