

March 4, 2010

George B. Johnston, Director  
College of Architecture  
247 Fourth Street Room 350  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Atlanta, GA 30332-0155



Dear Mr. Johnston:

In accordance with most recent decision by the National Architectural Accrediting Board, the Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Architecture, Master of Architecture degree program will undergo a Focused Evaluation in 2010. The scope of the Focused Evaluation as outlined in the decision letter sent on July 22, 2008 will be on:

**Human Resources  
Financial Resources**

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Washington, DC 20006

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The *NAAB Procedures for Accreditation, 2009 Edition* governs the Focused Evaluations scheduled for this year. Section 6 of the *Procedures* describes the procedure for Focused Evaluations. Paragraph 1 describes the *Special Program Focused Evaluation Report*. Please note that the text on page 51, paragraph 1.b. is incorrect. It should read as follows:

- b. *Special Program FE Reports* have two sections. For programs undergoing FEs, both sections must be completed:
- i. A narrative describing the program's response to each item identified, in the most recent decision letter as being the subject of a Focused Evaluation, and
  - ii. A brief narrative summarizing changes that have been made or may be made in the accredited program.

This report is due on or before June 1, 2010. Focused evaluations may or may not include a visit to the program. The decision to request additional information or to schedule a visit is made by the FE Team. For additional information, please consult the *Procedures* at [www.naab.org](http://www.naab.org).

Once the *Special Program FE Report* is received in the office, the NAAB will propose a two-person review team. Decisions on the results of Focused Evaluations are generally made in the fall.

If you have questions about the Focused Evaluation process, please do not hesitate to contact the NAAB at 202-783-2007 or by electronic mail at [arutledge@naab.org](mailto:arutledge@naab.org).

Thank you,

  
Andrea S. Rutledge, CAE  
Executive Director

Alan

I have received a note from the executive director of NAAB, below. The issue with Human Resources is complicated, so bear with my explanation:

1. The 2008 Visiting Team Report found that we met conditions pertaining to Social Equity, Human Resources, and Human Resource Development.
2. However, with regard to Social Equity, the VTR stated: “[...] However, with respect to faculty balance, the Program has regressed since the last Visit [2002]. Three valued women faculty have left the Program due to personal priorities, leading to a gender deficiency in faculty ranks and little progress has been made with respect to ethnic balance. While it is stated as a Program priority to redress this issue, with the sustained reduction in Institute financial resources coming to the Program, there has been little that suggests an encouraging resolution to this situation.”
3. In its summary letter, the Visiting Team elaborates, with regard to Social Equity:

“...the regular faculty continues to suffer from a lack of representation in minority and women members due in some part to unfortunate losses of women faculty members, circumstances beyond the program’s control. This was cited as a deficiency in the previous Visiting Team Report [2002] and continues here. Further, there are problems of gender equity on the faculty when it comes to governance and may well be also when it comes to salary. Although the program has actively sought to diversify, it has yet to achieve significant change in the composition of the tenured and tenure-track faculty. Together, the program, college, and institute should explore methods of hiring that address this issue as well as ensure the hiring of women and minority faculty members who can be tenured and promoted.”

**“2008 Visiting Team Assessment:** While the NAAB assessment of the *Special Report* submitted by Georgia Institute of Technology College of Architecture as part of the focused evaluation of its Master of Architecture programs [2005?] did satisfy the Board that sufficient progress was being made so as to not warrant a focused evaluation team being formed or a focused evaluation visit being conducted, the Visitation Team has noted that there has been some regression on this issue due to attrition within the faculty. While this is understandable in the context of the 21,5% reduction between 2003 and 2005 in the Georgia Tech budget from the State Legislature, nonetheless it is imperative for the school to make the issue of minority/women faculty hires a high priority. **The Visit Team recommends another follow up *Special Report* to address this unresolved issue.”**

4. So while the letter we received today specifies a visit focused upon Human Resources and Financial Resources, the former issue really concerns matters of Social Equity with regard to gender and ethnic balance on the faculty.
5. In her response to the draft of the VTR, Ellen asked that this matter be clarified in the final report; it was not.
6. In the past year, we have lost one or two additional female faculty members (I am unsure whether Ruchi Choudhary was counted in the number previously reported by Chris and Ellen). Also, we will have to report Betty Dowling’s retirement in our special report.

It would certainly be helpful if we could report the hiring of one or two or more female faculty members before June 1<sup>st</sup>!!

Thoughts appreciated.

George

**George B. Johnston, Ph.D.**  
**Professor and Interim Chair**

**School of Architecture**

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