March 14, 2014

Richard Romo  
President  
Office of the President  
University of Texas at San Antonio  
Main Building 4.122  
One UTSA Circle  
San Antonio, TX 78249  

Dear President Romo:  

After reviewing the Focused Evaluation Program Report submitted by University of Texas at San Antonio as part of the focused evaluation of its Master of Architecture program, in conjunction with the Focused Evaluation Team Report, the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) has found that the changes made or planned by the program to remove the identified deficiencies are satisfactory.

The term of accreditation stands. The next visit will be in 2016. The program is released from further reporting on the items that formed the scope of the focused evaluation.

The program report and the team report must be appended to the next Architecture Program Report, which is due in September 2015. The visit in 2016 will be conducted under the terms of the 2014 NAAB Conditions for Accreditation and the NAAB Procedures for Accreditation, 2015 Edition.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the NAAB office.

Very truly yours,

Shannon B. Kraus, FAIA, NCARB, MBA, FACHA  
President-elect

cc:  
Vincent Canizaro, Ph.D., Department Chair  
Miguel "Mike" Rodriguez, FAIA, Lead Reviewer  
Ted Landsmark, Ph.D., Secondary Reviewer

Enc.
University of Texas, San Antonio  
School of Architecture and Urban Design  

Focus Evaluation Team Report  

M. Arch (123 undergraduate credit hours plus 52 graduate credit hours)  

The National Architectural Accrediting Board  
January 2014  

The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), established in 1940, is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture. Because most state registration boards in the United States require any applicant for licensure to have graduated from an NAAB-accredited program, obtaining such a degree is an essential aspect of preparing for the professional practice of architecture.
1. Summary of Team Findings

1. Team Comments

The team reviewed the Focused Evaluation Report submitted by The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), School of Architecture and Urban Design, dated May 30, 2013. The report responds to most recent Visiting Team Report, completed in 2010 and the NAAB request noted in the Decision Letter received subsequent to that last visit.

The team reviewed the report submitted and determined that UTSA has provided sufficient information within their report that a site visit will not be required. Subsequent to that each member of the team continued their review remotely, communicating their findings electronically with each other and arriving at the determinations contained herein.

Based on the prior visiting team’s report, it is clear that UTSA was, at the time of their visit, facing significant stresses to resources as a result of explosive growth that coincided with the economic downturn of 2009-10. This report describes the progress made by a resourceful group of leaders that have literally “made lemonade” from their lemons. Through a combination of enrollment management, changes to workload rules and creative re-thinking of existing and new spaces available to them, they have done a commendable job of addressing the prior visiting team’s concerns.

Finally, we extend our thanks the leadership of the UTSA for their time and effort in preparing a clear and thorough report.
8. Physical Resources

The accredited degree program must provide the physical resources appropriate for a professional degree program in architecture, including design studio space for the exclusive use of each student in a studio class; lecture and seminar space to accommodate both didactic and interactive learning; office space for the exclusive use of each full-time faculty member; and related instructional support space. The facilities must also be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and applicable building codes. 

Met Not Met
[X] [ ]

Reconfiguration, space modifications and additional spaces have eliminated the concerns raised by the Visiting Team.

10. Financial Resources

An accredited degree program must have access to sufficient institutional support and financial resources to meet its needs and be comparable in scope to those available to meet the needs of other professional programs within the institution.

Met Not Met
[X] [ ]

Financial support continues to be a challenge for the architecture program but the growth of UTSA's program and facilities shows that the program has focused and managed its resources effectively.
Respectfully submitted,

Miguel A. "Mike" Rodriguez, FAIA
Lead Reviewer

Representing the Profession

Ted Landsmark, M.Env.D., JD, DFA (Hon), Ph.D.
Secondary Reviewer

Representing the Academy