

September 5, 2023

Dear Dean Donahue and Director Peter Butler:

In accordance with the provisions of [Board of Governors Rule 2.2](#), the Program Review Appeal Hearing for the School of Design and Community Development was held on September 1, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.

The Appeal was of the following Preliminary Recommendation(s):

- BSLA Landscape Architecture: Discontinuance
- BS Interior Architecture: Continue at the Current Level of Activity with Specific Action
 - Reduce the number of faculty positions associated with this program.
- BS Fashion Design and Merchandising: Continue at the Current Level of Activity with Specific Action
 - Reduce the number of faculty positions associated with this program.
- Reduce the number of faculty positions in the unit from the current number to 16.

The members of the Program Review Appeal Committee for this unit were:

- Paul Kreider, Vice Provost
- Lou Slimak, Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment
- Evan Widders, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education
- Kimberly Barnes, Associate Dean, Davis College
- Sandra Schwartz, Associate Dean, College of Creative Arts
- Valerie Lastinger, Associate Dean, Eberly College
- Scott Wayne, Faculty Senate representative

The following individuals participated in the presentation of the Appeal for the unit: Peter Butler and Ron Dulaney. These individuals and/or this unit submitted additional documentation and information in advance of the Hearing.

Result of the Program Review Appeal

Taking the information presented into consideration, the Committee has made the following determinations:

- Grant the appeal of discontinuance for the BSLA Landscape Architecture by a vote of 7 to 0.
- Grant the appeal of the reduction of faculty positions associated with BS Interior Architecture by a vote of 7 to 0.
- Deny the appeal of the reduction of faculty positions associated with BS Fashion Design and Merchandising by a vote of 7 to 0.

- Grant the appeal of the reduction of the number of faculty positions in the unit from the current number to 16 by a vote of 7 to 0.
 - Adjust the proposed reduction in faculty positions in the unit from the current number to 21 by a vote of 7 to 0.

The key components that led to the Committee's determination(s) include the following:

- Declining enrollment in the BSLA and MSLA Landscape Architecture, BS Agriculture and Extension Education, and BS Fashion, Design, and Merchandising programs;
- Low student-to-faculty ratio;
- An increase in faculty that is not aligned with the decrease in enrollment;
- The BSLA Landscape Architecture is a high-quality program that leads to high-quality student outcomes;
- The institution does not have a similar degree program for the students in the BSLA Landscape Architecture;
- The unit presented a plan to discontinue the MSLA Landscape Architecture that would allow for the delivery of the BSLA Landscape Architecture with fewer faculty; and
- The faculty in the BS Interior Architecture program cannot be reduced because of accreditation standards.

Review by the WVU Board of Governors

As a result of the [Board of Governors Rule 2.2](#), the Program Review Process and Appeal Hearing, the following Provost's Office Final Recommendation(s) will be placed on the Public Agenda for the September 15, 2023, Board of Governors meeting for a vote by the Board.

- BSLA Landscape Architecture: Continue at the Current Level of Activity with Specific Action
 - Reduce the number of faculty positions associated with this program to no more than 5 FTE.
 - By **October 31, 2023**, provide the Provost's Office with a recruitment and marketing plan to increase first-time freshmen enrollment in the program and set a target enrollment to achieve by Fall 2026.
 - Follow-up reporting on enrollment in Fall for each of the next 3 academic years.
- BS Interior Architecture: Continue at the Current Level of Activity*
- BS Fashion Design and Merchandising: Continue at the Current Level of Activity with Specific Action*
 - Reduce the number of faculty positions associated with this program.

The following recommendations were not appealed and will also be presented to the Board of Governors as they are listed below:

- BS-AGR Agriculture and Extension Education: Continue at the Current Level of Activity with Specific Action
 - Reduce the number of faculty positions associated with this program.
- BS Design Studies: Continue at the Current Level of Activity with Specific Action*
 - Reduce the number of faculty positions associated with this program.
- BS Environmental and Community Planning: Discontinuance
- MSLA Landscape Architecture: Discontinuance

- PhD Human and Community Development: Continue at the Current Level of Activity with Specific Action
 - Reduce the number of faculty positions associated with this program.
 - By **January 31, 2024**, submit (in CIM) a revision of curriculum that clarifies program requirements and gives the program a meaningful focus.

**The BS Interior Architecture, BS Design Studies and BS Fashion, Design and Merchandising programs will be moved out of the School and Davis College and into the new college resulting from the College of Creative Arts and Reed College of Media merger. This organizational change was not appealable.*

Reduction of Faculty Positions

Through this process and as a result of the Appeal decision(s), the Provost's Office has determined that the number of faculty positions in the unit should be reduced from its current number to 21.

If this recommendation is approved by the Board of Governors, the Provost's Office, in consultation with the dean's office and the chair (where applicable), will develop the Reduction in Force Plan, which will determine the specific faculty members who will be retained or subject to a reduction in force / non-renewals for this unit. Additionally, that process will include discussion of which faculty positions can be eliminated as of May 9, 2024, and which positions may be needed for one or two years beyond May 9, 2024, for teach-out programming. Faculty will learn on or around October 16, 2023, whether their positions will be eliminated or retained, or if they will be asked to stay on for a longer period of time to complete teach-out programming.

Providing Comments to WVU Board of Governors

Individuals have two opportunities to provide comments to the Board of Governors in advance of the September 15 vote. First, they can provide a written comment about a Provost's Office Final Recommendation or about WVU Transformation generally by completing this [comment form](#). To ensure that the Board members have appropriate time to review any comments received, we ask that they please submit comments at least two days in advance of September 14.

Second, if they wish to sign up to speak at a Board meeting, they may do so by completing [this form](#). If possible, individuals should try to submit their request to speak at least two days in advance of September 14. However, they will still be able to sign up in-person in advance of the start of the September 14 meeting. Depending on the number of individuals that sign up to speak, the Board may limit the number of speakers who may address a particular topic. The time that each speaker can speak will also be limited based upon the number of speakers.

Notifying Your Faculty and Staff

You must notify the faculty and appropriate staff within this unit of the Provost Office's Final Recommendations by forwarding this email and CCing Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment Lou Slimak (Louis.slimak@mail.wvu.edu). This notification should occur **immediately after receiving this letter**.

Additional Resources

The Provost's Office is currently working toward securing services with a career outplacement organization to assist faculty and staff who are affected by the current non-renewal or reduction in force processes. Specific details about this service and how to participate will be forthcoming.

Additionally, the WVU Faculty and Staff Assistance Program (FSAP) is a free, confidential resource for all active and retired faculty, staff and their dependents (i.e., spouse or child). It is a safe place where employees can talk about any struggles or concerns they are facing and determine the best way to address them. To utilize FSAP, call their office at [304-293-5590](tel:304-293-5590) or email fsap@hsc.wvu.edu to schedule a free appointment with a counselor.

Finally, information on the process and timeline is available at: <https://transformation.wvu.edu/resources>.

Sincerely,

WVU Office of the Provost