## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH VICE P

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VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

## Memorandum of Understanding

Department of Design College of The Arts December 2021

This Memorandum of Understanding outlines the consensus reached by the Department of Design, the College of the Arts, and the Division of Academic Affairs, based on the recently conducted program review (Self-study in March 2018, accreditation site visit in May 2018 and Action Report in November 2019, and UPRC report in November 2020). It describes the goals to be achieved, and the actions to be undertaken by all parties to this MOU to achieve these goals, during the next program review cycle. Progress toward goals is to be addressed in an annual report.

The Design Department offers degrees for the following programs: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design (BFA), the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design (BS), and the Bachelor of Arts in Design (BA). The de

provided by NASAD demonstrated appreciation for faculty members' commitment and excitement to the diversity of the student body.

The department uses endowed and other funds to organize vigorous programs of visiting artists, designers, scholars, and other speakers on topics of interest to specific classes beneficial for students and the general population. The continuous process of updating student knowledge through these organized programs involving local artists, experts, and alumni reflects the department's commitment to meeting the program's missions and changing trends, a process that positively improves department commitment and student learning.

Areas of Concern and Opportunities for Development were noted in the reports.

The external visitors expressed concerns regarding resources including "significant faculty, staff, space, and equipment needs" and in particular noted the necessity of planning for replacement of core faculty. This faculty resource issue was described by the external visitors as potentially a "significant threat" to the department in terms of future accreditation standards.

The department outlines current efforts in lowering units and time to degree, particularly among transfer students. One of the recent strategies for addressing skill level in incoming transfers has been the implementation of the Summer Design Academy, though it is not entirely clear how much assistance this has provided with transfer grad rates.

Resources for new and updated equipment vary based on one-time funding opportunities. Also, the physical resources' current status does not support the department's continuous increase of FTEs. Deferred maintenance of facilities, equipment, and other physical resources could hinder instruction and students' learning activities. The pressing facility needs, such as proper ventilation in the laser cutter room, are a concern as they are not aligned with

- 1. Develop and implement an assessment plan that includes closing the loop assessment activities. Provide an annual assessment report (due June 1) including progress made towards the actions agreed to in this MOU to the COTA dean, the Vice Provost for Academic Programs, and the Coordinator of Program Review and Assessment. In its 2020 Action letter NASAD awarded an 8-year accreditation approval, therefore the review cycle will be from 2020-2027. A comprehensive self-study will be due June 2027 for 2027-2028 Academic Year accreditation and program review process.
- 2. Continue to analyze time and units earned to degree, particularly among transfer students, and strategize methods in trending toward college and university averages (articulation agreements, supplemental skills courses, etc.).
- 3. Continue to analyze differences between pre-major headcount and major headcount in the BS and BFA degrees and develop an action plan as needed.
- 4. Continue to monitor and develop strategies to improve graduation rates (particularly 4-year FTF and 2-year Transfer) that trend toward college and university averages.
- 5. To improve Transfer student success the Department will work with the College to:
  - a. seek student funding resources for a Summer Design Academy
  - b. develop a resource platform and continue collaboration with community colleges to facilitate articulation agreements.
- 6. Continue to develop opportunities to promote service-learning and community engagement opportunities that are appropriate to Design's discipline specific project-based learning opportunities.
- 7. Plan for a Spring / Fall 2023 review of HXDI with a streamlined PARC process (shortened self-study, data tables, and assessment reports). The next NASAD accreditation will deal with a well-established degree program.
- 8. Consider curricular or other programmatic changes to more fully integrate the BA in Design students into the Department.
- 9. Work with the College to negotiate and collaborate with the College of Health and Human Services and the Fashion Design program in Family and Consumer Sciences to meet the NASAD accreditation requirements for Fashion Design.
- 10. Work with the College to develop a plan to ensure that all degrees and courses have adequate faculty support. This plan may include strategic hiring of tenure track faculty and/or lecturer faculty with expertise in niche areas, as resources permit.
- 11. Continue to update the college with concerns regarding the upkeep of facilities and labs, and work with the College to develop a plan for upgrades and safety orientations as needed and according to available resources.