

**GENERAL POLICY REPORT #45**  
**September 4, 2009**

The item listed below (approved by Faculty Senate on May 5, 2009) will be considered to have the necessary faculty approval unless a petition requesting further consideration of this is signed by five faculty members and submitted to the chair of the Faculty Senate within 14 calendar days after the date of circulation. As a rule, if no petition is received within 14 days, or by September 18, 2009, the report would be submitted to the president for approval and transmittal to the regents, if regents' action is required. If a petition is received, the report will be referred to the Faculty Senate. On referred items, Faculty Senate may: (1) affirm the action and report it to a meeting of the university faculty, (2) amend the action and report it to a meeting of the university faculty, or (3) rescind the action.

*The following item will be presented in the policy report that begins immediately below:*

**UCC Catalog Changes:**

**FC-09-077:** UCC-09-119 – NOI: - Create Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.) and Bachelor Science in Landscape Architecture (B.S.L.A.); Discontinue Master of Science (M.S.) major in Landscape Architecture and Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (B.L. Arch.)

**IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
NOTICE OF INTENT**

**To initiate a  
New, Expanded, Cooperative, Discontinued, program component or Off-Campus Instructional  
Program or Instructional/Research Unit**

Institution Submitting Proposal: University of Idaho  
 Name of College, School, or Division: College of Art & Architecture  
 Name of Department(s) or Area(s): Landscape Architecture

Indicate if this Notice of Intent (NOI) is for an Academic or Professional Technical Program  
 Academic X Professional - Technical \_\_\_\_\_

This is a New, Expanded, Cooperative, Contract, or Off-Campus Instructional Program, or  
 Administrative/Research Unit (circle one) leading to:

Create the degree Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA), Create the degree Bachelor  
of Science Landscape Architecture (BSLA), Discontinue the major Master of Science in  
Landscape Architecture (M.S.), and Discontinue the degree Bachelor of Landscape  
Architecture (B.L.Arch.)

(Degree or Certificate)

Proposed Starting Date: July 1, 2010

**For New Programs:**

**For Other Activity:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Program (i.e., degree) Title & CIP 2000

- Program Component (major/minor/option/emphasis)
- Off-Campus Activity/Resident Center
- Instructional/Research Unit
- Addition/Expansion
- Discontinuance/consolidation
- Contract Program
- Other Transformation to MLA

_____ College Dean (Institution)	<u>2/2/2009</u> Date
_____ Chief Fiscal Officer (Institution)	Date
_____ Chief Academic Officer (Institution)	Date
_____ President	Date

_____ VP Research & Graduate Studies	Date
_____ State Administrator, SDPTE	Date
_____ Chief Academic Officer, OSBE	Date
_____ SBOE/OSBE Approval	Date

**Before completing this form, refer to Board Policy Section III.G., Program Approval and Discontinuance.**

- Briefly describe the nature of the request e.g., is this a new program (degree, program, or certificate) or program component (e.g., new, discontinued, modified, addition to an existing program or option).

The University of Idaho Department of Landscape Architecture in the College of Art and Architecture is requesting the following structural changes to its program offerings:

- Transformation of the accredited four-year Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) first professional degree and the Master of Science, Landscape Architecture academic degree to a five and one-half year accredited Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) first professional degree program.
  - The MSLA academic degree will no longer be offered.
  - If the above changes are approved, the four-year BLA program will change to an unaccredited Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA).
  - Students beginning as freshmen or as transfer students in Landscape Architecture will be required to complete the unaccredited BSLA degree embedded within the five and one half year sequence in order to apply to the College of Graduate Studies for the MLA degree in their fourth year.
  - This seamless program parallels the accredited first professional five and one-half year Master of Architecture (M Arch) program at the University of Idaho with its four year BS Arch undergraduate program embedded in the M Arch curriculum. Kansas State University also offers a similarly accredited MLA. Similar five and one half year or six year M Arch and MLA accredited programs are being instituted across the country and reflect current changes to professional accreditation standards that give universities the opportunity to respond to regional markets.
2. Provide a statement of need for program or a program modification. Include student and state need, demand, and employment potential. **Attach a Scope and Sequence, SDPTE Form Attachment B, for professional-technical education requests.** (Use additional sheets if necessary.).

**Expansion of the Landscape Architecture Body of Knowledge** - The profession of Landscape Architecture has its historical roots in open space planning, urban design, green infrastructure planning and ecosystem and landscape planning - a highly diverse profession that is practiced at every scale of the landscape. The profession is also expanding with new emphases in sustainable and regenerative site systems, the stewardship of culturally and environmentally unique bioregions and expanding applications of GIS technology to name a few. The long-term viability of the profession and the practice of landscape architecture in the Mountain West requires the graduation of highly skilled students who are able to work across disciplines to creatively resolve complex design issues at all scales of the landscape. A five and one-half year MLA will provide students the opportunity to participate more fully in the College of Art and Architecture Foundation sequence, enhance their digital modeling skills, to elect to focus in natural sciences, social sciences, business, engineering and the humanities tracks and to more effectively participate in cross disciplinary design studios with graduate colleagues across the university.

**State Need** – The Idaho State Board of Landscape Architects oversees the licensing of the profession of landscape architecture in the State of Idaho and the University of Idaho offers the only landscape architecture program in Idaho with a BLA program fully accredited by the American Society of Landscape Architects (LAAB). The proposed MLA will also be an accredited degree to meet the needs for licensed practitioners in the state and region. Graduates of the proposed MLA

will receive an accredited degree that qualifies them to sit for the Landscape Architecture Licensing Exam (LARE) upon graduation.

**Market Demand for the MLA** - Currently the Department of Landscape Architecture enrolls some 100 students in its BLA first professional degree program with 5-7 of these students on a yearly average while simultaneously enrolled in the MSLA program. Interest in a graduate program has been increasing over the years, particularly among those students who have previous baccalaureate degrees in disciplines other than Landscape Architecture. The MLA is the terminal degree for the profession of landscape architecture and is desirable for students who also are considering teaching landscape architecture at the university level or seeking leadership roles in private and public practice. MLA programs in the Northwest are at capacity with at least two major northwest universities (University of Oregon and University of Washington) accepting only 12- 15 MLA students per year out of applicant pools exceeding 100.

**Need for Landscape Architecture** - Current global economic conditions notwithstanding, Landscape Architecture has been consistently cited by the US Department of Labor as a growing profession:

*Employment change. Employment of landscape architects is expected to increase by 16 percent during the 2006-16 decade, which is faster than the average for all occupations. Employment will grow because the expertise of landscape architects will be sought after in the planning and development of new construction to meet the needs of a growing population. With land costs rising and the public desiring more beautiful spaces, the importance of good site planning and landscape design is growing.*

*New construction will spur demand for landscape architects to help plan sites that meet with environmental regulations and zoning laws and integrate new structures with the natural environment in the least disruptive way. For example, landscape architects will be needed to manage stormwater run-off to avoid pollution of waterways and conserve water resources. Landscape architects also will be increasingly involved in preserving and restoring wetlands and other environmentally sensitive sites.*

*Continuation of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation, Equity Act: A Legacy for Users also is expected to spur employment for landscape architects, particularly in State and local governments. This Act, known as SAFETEA-LU, provides funds for surface transportation and transit programs, such as interstate highway construction and maintenance, pedestrian and bicycle trails, and safe routes to schools.*

*In addition to the work related to new development and construction, landscape architects are expected to be involved in historic preservation, land reclamation, and refurbishment of existing sites. Additionally, landscape architects will be needed to create security perimeters that are better integrated with their surroundings for many of the Nation's landmarks, monuments, and buildings.*

*(US Department of Labor Website: [stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos039.htm#outlook](http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos039.htm#outlook))*

**Availability of Accredited MLA Programs in the Region** - The regional states of Washington, Oregon, Colorado and Utah offer accredited MLA degrees. Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Wyoming do not offer accredited MLA degree programs. The states of Washington, Oregon, Nevada, and Colorado also offer 5-year accredited BLA programs. Utah, like the University of Idaho currently offers a 4-year accredited BLA degree program. Montana offers an unaccredited undergraduate landscape design degree at Montana State University. Typically these Montana students apply to accredited MLA degree programs elsewhere in the US.

**Parity with other College of Art and Architecture Graduate Programs** - The Department of Architecture and Interior Design offers the accredited Master of Architecture and the Department of Art and Design the terminal Master of Fine Arts graduate degrees. Interdisciplinary outreach, teaching and scholarship are fostered by having parity in all of the degree granting programs. This is particularly significant considering landscape architecture's leadership in the Building Sustainable Communities Initiative and the opportunity afforded the program to partner with Architecture and the Bioregional Planning program statewide and at the Idaho Urban Design and Research Center. [The change also enables students in landscape architecture to participate more fully in the College of Art and Architecture design history and visual and design foundation.](#)

**Value of a MLA vs. BLA** - The starting salary differential between the BLA and the MLA is not overly significant. However, the accredited MLA is the degree of choice for returning students who wish to advance their leadership and research skills in public and private practice and for those who desire the terminal degree in order to teach landscape architecture at the university level. Currently, the MLA is the fastest growing degree within the profession of landscape architecture.

**The University of Idaho Strategic Plan, Outreach and Focus on Environment, Energy and Water** - Landscape architects have provided leadership for many years in stewarding the natural and cultural landscape. The Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Idaho is leading the university in its outreach to the City of Cascade Idaho, is a founding partner in the Building Sustainable Communities Initiative, is committed to "Creating Place Within the Bioregion" and provides a sequence of studios and technical courses on green infrastructure, stormwater design and open space and community design. [The proposed An-accredited MLA will combine the best of the current BLA professional core curriculum, a research methods requirement from the existing MSLA degree program and nine to twelve graduate credits in hydrology, geology, ecology or geographic information systems with advanced design studios and a series of as advised](#) -elective tracks ~~that~~ explore these areas more thoroughly.

3. Briefly describe how the institution will ensure the quality of the program (e.g., accreditation, professional societies, licensing boards, etc.).

National Landscape Architecture Registration Board (LAAB) standards require that accredited first professional degree programs (BLA or MLA) have at least four full time faculty members with a professional degree in Landscape Architecture. There are four full-time faculty members and two half-time faculty members in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Idaho with these credentials. These faculty numbers will continue to support the proposed MLA first professional degree.

The BLA degree program at the University of Idaho has been nationally accredited by LAAB for over 30 years ensuring that its graduates can successfully sit for the Landscape Architecture Registration Exam (LARE) and receive their Landscape Architecture license in the State of Idaho or any of the other 49 states requiring landscape architecture title and/or practice laws. The proposed MLA degree will be accredited by LAAB and supported by the College of Art and Architecture Department of Landscape Architecture as its first professional degree program.

4. Identify similar programs offered within the state of Idaho or in the region by other

colleges/universities. If the proposed request is similar to another program, provide a rationale for the duplication. This may not apply to PTE programs if workforce needs within the respective region have been established.

The University of Idaho offers the only landscape architecture degree in the state of Idaho. The BLA program is fully accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB).

Enrollment and Graduates (i.e., number of majors or other relevant data)

By Institution for the Proposed Program

Last three years beginning with the current year and the 2 previous years

Institution	Relevant Enrollment Data			Number of Graduates		
	Current	Previous Year	Previous Year	Current	Previous Year	Previous Year
BSU						
CSI						
CWI						
EITC						
ISU						
LCSC						
NIC						
UI	9	9	9	4	5	2

Degrees offered by school/college or program(s) within disciplinary area under review

Institution and Degree name	Level	Specializations within the discipline (to reflect a national perspective)	Specializations offered within the degree at the institution
BSU			
CSI			
CWI			
EITC			
ISU			
LCSC			
NIC			
UI			Bio-regional Planning. MS Landscape Architecture students participate in Bio-regional Planning studios.

- Describe how this request is consistent with the State Board of Education's policy or role and mission of the institution. (i.e., centrality).

Landscape Architecture is a licensed profession in the State of Idaho and the University offers the only Landscape Architecture degree program in the state. Landscape Architecture is central to a broad array of the University of Idaho's strategic plan themes addressing community transformation and sustainable development. The Department is also central to the University's transformation themes of environment, energy and water. The Department of Landscape Architecture is a founding partner in the university's Building Sustainable Communities Initiative. Landscape Architecture is also considered part of the mission of the University of Idaho by virtue of the institution's responsibility to offer architecture.

6. Is the proposed program in the 8-year Plan? Indicate below.

Yes  X  No  \_\_\_\_\_

If not on 8-year plan, provide a justification for adding the program.

8. Resources--Faculty/Staff/Space Needs/Capital Outlay. (Use additional sheets if necessary.):

No additional faculty, space or capital outlay will be required resources would be necessary at this time. It is anticipated however that an additional journal, *The Journal of Landscape Architecture*, will be valuable as a library resource and that MLA students will be using the University of Idaho Inside Idaho database more frequently. Additionally, the requirement for MLA students to pursue a specialized elective track will have an impact on student enrollment numbers in upper division science based courses in specific disciplines.

Estimated Fiscal Impact	FY _____	FY _____	FY _____	Total _____
<b>A. Expenditures</b>				
1. Personnel	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Operating	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Capital Outlay	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Facilities	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL:</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>B. Source of Funds</b>				
1. Appropriated-reallocation	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Appropriated – New	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Federal	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Other:	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL:</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____



# Notice of Intent (NOI) Approval Tracking Form

Committee Chairs please append this document to the relevant NOI and send it forward to the next committee for review.

**Committee:** University Curriculum Committee Date: 4/27/09

**Present:** Richard Battaglia, Jill Dacey (Chair), Gail Eckwright, Walter Hesford, Allen Kitchel, Ruprecht Machleidt, John Marshall, Mark Secrist, Bob Stone, Richard Wells, Jeanne Christiansen, Jean Henscheid, Nancy Krogh, Thea Lu, Joel Zwainz.

**Absent:** Rod Hill, Garrett Holbrook.

**Others Present:** Steve Drown, Charles Tibbals, Dwaine Hubbard

**Program/Degree:** Create the degree Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.), create the degree Bachelor Science in Landscape Architecture (B.S.L.A.), discontinue the Master of Science major in Landscape Architecture, and discontinue the degree Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (B.L.Arch.)

## Discussion:

### UCC-09-119 College of Art and Architecture

Committee chair Dacey introduced the proposed Notice of Intent (NOI) from the College of Art and Architecture to create the degree Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.), create the degree Bachelor Science in Landscape Architecture (B.S.L.A.), discontinue the Master of Science major in Landscape Architecture, and discontinue the degree Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (B.L.Arch.). Dacey noted that the College of Art and Architecture Curriculum Committee voted in unanimous support of this NOI. Dacey further explained that after consultations between the college dean, the provost, and Steve Drown this NOI was moved forward to Graduate Council which approved it with some minor edits on April 22, 2009. Committee member Secrist asked about the enrollment and graduation rate in the B.L.Arch. program. Committee member Machleidt asked why the change of degrees. Steve Drown explained that the M.L.A. is the traditional accredited degree in the Landscape Architecture professional program. Drown added that this change follows the national trend. Drown added that changing the Landscape Architecture program to a seamless program like the Architecture program will allow for more opportunities for inter-departmental cooperation between the two programs. Committee member Wells asked why only have one accredited degree. Drown explained that due to their accreditation requirements the department can only offer one accredited degree without increasing their faculty and facilities. Drown noted that the B.L.Arch. will continue to be the accredited degree until 2011 when the department will have its next accreditation review. At that time he (Drown) will work with the accreditation board to make the transition of having the Bachelors degree being accredited to the Masters degree being the accredited degree. Machleidt asked about enrollment procedures in seamless programs. Drown indicated that students begin as undergraduates and apply for admission to the College of Graduate Studies in their junior year. Wells asked how many students who enroll in the B.S.L.A. program would be admitted to the M.L.A. program. Committee member Marshall asked for clarification of what the term "seamless program" means. The committee discussed the implications for students who cannot gain admission to the College of Graduate Studies and thus be unable to earn the accredited M.L.A. degree. Committee member Zwainz expressed concern with the M.L.A. being the accredited degree as it will exclude students who do not meet the minimum GPA to gain admission as a graduate student. Wells asked if students with a B.S.L.A. could transfer to other institutions to continue their studies. Drown said that students could transfer with B.S.L.A. to other institutions to continue their studies. Committee member Eckwright asked where the money would come from to support the cost of additional Landscape Architecture journals. Drown noted that the department would need to provide financial assistance with their professional fees to pay for new journals. Committee member Battaglia asked how the Landscape Architecture advisors handle students who are not going to meet the admission requirements for the M.L.A. program. Drown added that rearranging this program into a seamless program allows for more foundational courses to be offered before students enroll in the comprehensive studio courses. The committee **Approved** the proposed NOI 11 for and 0 against, and will forward the proposed NOI to Faculty Council for review.

**Vote:** 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions