



Item: AS-2

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 21, 2007

SUBJECT: Limited Access Program Request for the Bachelor of Architecture (040201)

PROPOSED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Recommend approval of Limited Access Program Request for the Bachelor of Architecture (040201)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Florida Board of Education has the responsibility for establishing criteria for assigning limited access status to an educational program. One of the criteria is that the number of students who have met all the requirements for admission to the university and to the program is in excess of available resources (i.e. space; equipment or other instructional facilities; clinical facilities; adequate faculty to meet acceptable student-faculty ratios; fiscal or other resource limitations).

The School of Architecture in the College of Architecture, Urban and Public Affairs is requesting approval for limited access status for their Bachelor of Architecture degree program (040201) because of resource issues. The accreditation requirements of the National Architectural Accreditation Board (NAAB) state that all students enrolled in the degree program are to be provided design studio space for the exclusive use of each student in a studio class. The studio facilities on the Fort Lauderdale campus can accommodate desks for no more than 152 students per term in the upper division. Limited access status is required so that the professional accreditation of the program is not jeopardized.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

The Florida Board of Governors may declare a degree program as limited access, upon request by a university Board of Trustees. The plan is to have the proposal approved for Fall 2007.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Supporting Documentation:
Presented by: Dr. Rosalyn Carter, Dean

Limited Access Criteria
Phone: 561-297-2011

STATE UNIVERSITIES OF FLORIDA

Limited Access Program Request

Reference: 6C-6.001 Admissions, FAC

University:	Florida Atlantic University	Degree(s) offered:	Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.)
Program:	School of Architecture	Six digit CIP code:	040201

1. Will the entire program be limited access or only a specific track?

The entire program would be limited access, but access to the program would continue to occur at two points in the sequence: in the first year for students applying for the lower division program and in the third year for students with an Associate of Architecture degree or transferring from another architecture degree program.

2. If only a track is limited access, please specify the name of the track

N/A

3. How many students will the program plan to accommodate?

Fall 200 Spring 200 Academic Year Total 200
(152 in upper division, 48 in lower division)

4. When do you propose to initiate limited access?

We would like to initiate limited access for the fall of 2007 term. More than 240 students applied to the School for the 2006/2007 academic year. The School can barely accommodate 25% of these students in our existing facilities.

5. What is the justification for limiting access?

REGARDING UPPER DIVISION: (capacity limited to 152 students)

The Bachelor of Architecture is a professional degree program accredited by the National Architectural Accreditation Board (NAAB). These accreditation requirements explicitly state that all students enrolled in the degree program are to be provided "design studio space for the exclusive use of each student in a studio class" (from the NAAB Conditions for Accreditation, 2004 Edition).

The Architecture School's studio facilities on the Fort Lauderdale campus can accommodate studio desks for 152 students per term in the upper division (third, fourth, and fifth year). Since students are required to take a design studio both fall and spring each year only 152 students can be accommodated annually in these facilities without jeopardizing the program's accreditation.

REGARDING LOWER DIVISION: (capacity limited to 48 students)

The School is not obligated to provide dedicated desks to students in the lower division studios, but the specific requirements of a design studio preclude the use of standard classrooms for these courses. We currently have one dedicated room on the Boca Raton campus that we are using to accommodate four concurrent class groups. This space should accommodate 48 students per semester (four groups of 12).

6. By what means will access be limited? Please provide a description of the program's admissions requirements and procedures, and indicate how these requirements and procedures ensure equal access for Florida community college Associate of Arts degree graduates in the competition for available space in the program.

LIMITED ACCESS METHOD:

Students applying to the program are evaluated for their past academic performance, their design skills, and writing skills (the significance of these three components is described in greater detail below). Applications will be graded numerically on these three criteria and ranked in descending order. The strongest applicants would be given preference to the available studio seats and offered admission for the next academic year. The next twenty applicants (at each

level) would be placed on a waiting list pending the acceptance of the first-tier applicants.

UPPER DIVISION APPLICANTS:

Like most professional design programs admission to the School requires students to submit a design portfolio and compose a writing sample. Once it has been determined that a prospective student meets the minimum requirements to attend the University and meets the minimum 550 TOEFL score (where applicable) by the School then their academic performance, design portfolio, and writing sample are evaluated and assigned a numerical value. These three criteria are weighted 45% for academic performance evidenced by their cumulative GPA, 45% for design skill as evidenced in the design portfolio, and 10% for the communication skills evidenced in the writing sample.

REGARDING LOWER DIVISION:

Students entering the first year are not expected to have a background specific to architectural design since this is not typically taught in high school courses. Prospective students would need to show a level of proficiency with math, science, English, social science, and drawing appropriate to college level architecture courses. In addition to reviewing past academic performance applicants would be required to complete a series of three drawing exercises and a writing assignment.

Once it has been determined that a prospective student meets the minimum requirements to attend the University and (where applicable) has achieved a minimum 550 TOEFL score then their academic performance, drawing exercises, and writing assignment will be evaluated and assigned a numerical value. In developing these rankings the three criteria would be weighted 60% for academic performance evidenced by their cumulative GPA, 25% for design skill as evidenced in the drawing exercises, and 15% for the communication skills evidenced in the writing assignment.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

The faculty convenes an admissions committee to review applications: this committee consists of at least three full-time faculty members and the director. This committee reviews the admissions requirements listed in the undergraduate catalog and on the School's web site and composes all admissions related writing and drawing assignments. The committee members review each of the applications: every application is assessed by at least two faculty members. Reviewers are introduced to the evaluation criteria each year prior to the assessment process. During the review process they assign a numerical value to each student's portfolio or drawing exercise and their writing assignment. The final assessment value combines a student's cumulative GPA with these scores.

Present the current race and gender profiles of the students in the program. Discuss the impact of the proposed action on the race and gender profiles. Cite sources used for discussion. What strategies, should they be necessary, will be used to promote diversity in the program?

RACE AND GENDER PROFILES

Our most current data regarding the race and gender profiles comes from the Departmental Dashboard Indicators, 2005-2006 Program Review compiled by University's Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Analysis (http://iea.fau.edu/review/2006/PR2005-2006_Architecture.rtf).

Over the last three years the School's population has been approximately 35% female and 65% male and has shown a steady growth in the representation of minority students from 37% in the 2001-2002 academic year to 48% in 2004-2005: making FAU's Professional Architecture program one of the most diverse in the county.

PROMOTING DIVERSITY

Our student body positively reflects the cultural diversity of South Florida. The strongest students entering the School over the last few years do not represent any singular gender or race. This has consistently been the same each year since the School's inception. We have no reason to suspect that the demographic of the student body will change considerably due to a limited admission process. We have and will continue to visit regional community colleges to invite a broad range of applicants. Current efforts by the School to develop additional undergraduate

scholarship lines will help us continue to be accessible students with fewer financial means.

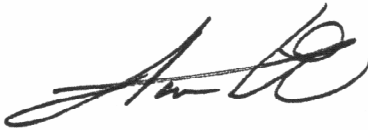
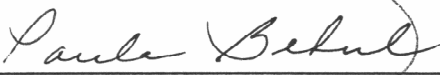

8. Are the graduates of the program in high demand? If so, and if the program is to be limited due to lack of adequate resources, provide a justification for limiting access to the program rather than reallocating resources from programs with low market demand.

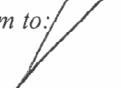
DEMAND FOR GRADUATES

Students in the Architecture School are often able to begin working in the field well before their last year of School. Historically all of our students looking for jobs in the profession are able to find full-time positions before or shortly after graduation. Those who elect to pursue graduate study immediately following their undergraduate degree or within the first three years following graduation have been accepted to several competitive graduate programs including the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCIArc), Georgia Institute of Technology, and the University of Florida. Graduates of the program have also had consistent success pursuing work outside of the state and abroad.

REALLOCATING OTHER RESOURCES

While the community and market demand could justify a larger student body the physical space available to the program is just adequate to accommodate the aforementioned 200 students without jeopardizing our professional accreditation. Unfortunately there are no secondary degree tracks within the School from which to draw resources or space in favor of the Bachelor of Architecture sequence.

Request Initiated by:	Aron Temkin, Director  September 1, 2006
EEO Officer's Signature:	
Provost's Signature:	 11/9/06

Send the completed form to:  Dr. R. E. LeMon
Acting Chancellor
Division of Colleges and Universities
Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1614
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1950

Limited Access Form Updated 2/2003

J E Mly 10/5/06
JUPE Chair