

## II.2.3 Curriculum Review and Development

One of the standing committees within the School of Architecture is the Curriculum Committee. This committee is charged with reviewing the School's curriculum on a regular basis. Any questions, concerns or proposals brought up by faculty, students or the administration that relate to the curriculum of our undergraduate or graduate degree programs are sent to this committee for their review and recommendations. The committee will also initiate proposals, which happened with our new graduate certificate program, The Professional Practice of Architecture, that are then brought before the faculty and students for the appropriate review. The Director of the School provides a charge to this committee each academic year in order to identify specific issues that need to be addressed. The Director of the School develops the committee's charge in response to conversations with students at All-School meetings, studio forums, analysis of data from studio culture surveys, end-of-semester all-studio review by faculty discussions, academic heads meetings, advisory council discussions and feedback as well as discussions with the Graduate and Undergraduate Program Coordinators and the primary student advisor in the School, Rachael Ortego, Director of Student Services.

In addition, the committee initiates discussions on issues that they believe are important for the School to review and address. This committee typically meets once a week. The composition of the committee typically consists of: Graduate Program Coordinator, Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Faculty—both tenured/tenure track and non-tenure track—as well as a student representative. Our Director of Student Services, a staff position, sits on this committee as a non-voting member. Because this staff position is in charge of student advising they are quite knowledgeable of student issues as well as campus initiatives and resources that can contribute to the discussion of this committee.

The members of this committee have remained relatively constant over the last three years as we worked through the process of increasing our total program credits to 168 combined credits, but the membership on the committee will be changing this coming year in order to maintain a diverse number of perspectives on the committee. During the past three years the committee membership has been:

- Ralph Johnson, Professor, chair
- Christopher Livingston, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator
- Chere LeClair, Associate Teaching Professor (NTT) and Undergraduate Program Coordinator
- Zuzanna Karczewska, Associate Professor, (Fall 2013) (previously Assistant Professor)
- Tom Wood, Professor (2012-13)
- Michael Everts, Associate Professor (2010-12)
- Shauntel Nelson, Graduate Student (2011-12)
- Sander Kohler, Graduate Student (2012-13)
- Rachael Ortego, Director of Student Services

Both the Graduate Program Coordinator and the Undergraduate Program Coordinator have served on the Curriculum Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee allowing for the curricular decisions to be made in the context and support of the School's long range planning efforts. Another major task of the Curriculum Committee has been to develop the common course learning objectives and to align our course offerings with the Student Performance Criteria matrix as another means for linking curricular decisions to assessment strategies.

In addition, to the internal curricular review, the School presents the program curriculum—and appropriate curricular proposals such as our professional practice certificate—to the School's Advisory Council. The Advisory Council (AC) meets at the School each semester. Over the past 2 ½ years there have been two main topics that have elicited significant feedback from our AC members. One of these topics is the previously mentioned graduate certificate program, The Professional Practice of Architecture. The Advisory Council provided input on this certificate program from the outset of its development and 3 members of the AC served on an ad hoc advisory board to help guide the development of the certificate program. Surveys were sent out to all AC members as well as other key practitioners identified by the School to gain as much feedback as possible. At each subsequent AC meeting we have presented a progress report to the AC members to gain additional feedback. In addition to all of this, the School assigned one of our part-time faculty members—Jessica Jellison, who has an architectural practice in Bozeman—to be the lead individual on the development of this certificate program—in collaboration with the Director of the School and the Curriculum Committee.

The other topic that has gained a lot of feedback from the Advisory Council has been an overview of our curriculum. The AC members have been working on developing a list of recommended electives/topics that are to be shared with the students—particularly with students in the early years of our program. The AC members have discussed that their years in practice provide them with a perspective on the courses they took—or did not take—when they were in school. They have been developing the list of topics they would recommend our students consider taking while they are in school or as continuing education topics once they graduate. Some examples of the topics they are including on their list are: business, studio art, rural sociology, international history, and psychology. We hope the AC will finalize their Course Recommendation List this year for use in our student advising and orientation sessions.

The process for curricular review and changes is as follows:

- Proposals, reviews and/or discussions can be initiated by faculty, students, administrators or outside constituencies.
- Items are sent to the School of Architecture Curriculum Committee or review and/or development
  - Public meetings with students are held if appropriate to the specific issue
- Proposals are reviewed and voted upon by the faculty
- If approved, proposals are submitted to the College for review.
  - The chair of the School Curriculum Committee and the Director of the School must officially sign off on these proposals in order for them to be forwarded to the College.
- At the current time there is no College Curriculum Committee, however, the Dean of the College reviews all curricular items at the College level.
  - There are plans to create a College Curriculum during this coming year.
- If approved, the curriculum proposal is forwarded to one of two university review committees:
  - Curriculum & Planning Committee (CPC) for undergraduate curriculum changes  
<http://www.montana.edu/wwwprov/committees/cpc.html>
  - University Graduate Council (UGC) for graduate curriculum changes  
<http://www.montana.edu/wwwdg/committees.html>
- If approved by either CPC or UGC, the curriculum proposal is then forwarded to Faculty Senate  
<http://www2.montana.edu/facultysenate/>
- If approved by Faculty Senate, the curriculum proposal is forwarded to the Office of the Provost for review.
  - Depending upon the scope of the curricular change, the review by the Office of the Provost can be the final approval required and the curriculum changes are adopted.
  - In other cases, when the scope of the curriculum changes are significant, a final review and approval by the Montana University System Board of Regents is required before the proposal is adopted.