May 19, 2025,

Jacqueline Shaw
Department Head, Architecture
Rhode Island School of Design
Bayard Ewing Building
231 South Main Street
Providence, RI 02903

Sent via email to jshaw02@risd.edu

Dear Professor Shaw:

At its April 18-19, 2025, meeting, the Board of Directors of the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) reviewed the Plan to Correct submitted by the Master of Architecture degree (undergraduate architecture degree + 69 graduate credit hours; undergraduate non-architecture degree + 111 graduate credit hours) at Rhode Island School of Design and voted to defer action and require a revised Plan to Correct to address all remaining areas of non-compliance.

The Board noted that the program submitted sufficient evidence to demonstrate compliance with the following Conditions for Accreditation previously noted as "not met":

- 5.1 Structure and Governance
- 6.6 Student Financial Information

The Board noted that the program did not submit sufficient evidence to demonstrate compliance with the following Conditions:

- 5.6 Physical Resources

The Board's review is included below:

5.1 Structure and Governance
The program must describe the administrative and governance processes that provide for organizational continuity, clarity, and fairness and allow for improvement and change.

  5.1.1   Administrative Structure: Describe the administrative structure and identify key personnel in the program and school, college, and institution.

5.1.2   Governance: Describe the role of faculty, staff, and students in both program and institutional governance structures and how these structures relate to the governance structures of the academic unit and the institution.

Met. The program provided sufficient information to meet the requirements of this Condition. The program described administrative and governance processes that provide for organizational continuity, clarity, and fairness and allow for improvement and change.

6.6 Student Financial Information
6.6.1   The program must demonstrate that students have access to current resources and advice for making decisions about financial aid.
6.6.2   The program must demonstrate that students have access to an initial estimate for all tuition, fees, books, general supplies, and specialized materials that may be required during the full course of study for completing the NAAB-accredited degree program.

Met. The program provided sufficient information to meet the requirements of this Condition. The program provided evidence that students have access to current resources and advice for making decisions about financial aid, including an initial estimate for all tuition, fees, books, general supplies, and specialized materials that may be required for the full course of study.

5.6 Physical Resources
The program must describe its physical resources and demonstrate how they safely and equitably support the program's pedagogical approach and student and faculty achievement. Physical resources include but are not limited to the following:

5.6.1   Space to support and encourage studio-based learning.
5.6.2   Space to support and encourage didactic and interactive learning, including lecture halls, seminar spaces, small group study rooms, labs, shops, and equipment.
5.6.3   Space to support and encourage the full range of faculty roles and responsibilities, including preparation for teaching, research, mentoring, and student advising.
5.6.4   Resources to support all learning formats and pedagogies in use by the program.
5.6.5   Plans for disaster and recovery of information.

If the program's pedagogy does not require some or all of the above physical resources, the program must describe the effect (if any) that online, off-site, or hybrid formats have on digital and physical resources.

Not Met. The program did not provide sufficient information to meet the requirements of this Condition. The program needs to provide evidence of completed improvements to the physical resources.

The program is required to submit a Plan to Correct demonstrating compliance with the Condition noted as "not met," by **December 15, 2025**.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions at accreditation@naab.org.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Day, FAIA, NCARB
President