

Interior Design Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 29, 2008

Attendees:

Ann Fry, ASID, CKD; Program Coordinator
Velvet Knight, Adjunct Faculty
Denese Heinen, Adjunct Faculty
Robert Boyd, LCFA Division Coordinator
Sherrie Beasley, ASID
Jerry Goebel, ASID
Gregg Bliss, AIA
Mark Grigsby, ASID

Welcome and Introduction of Board Members and Guests by Ann Fry

Ann Fry, Program Coordinator opened the meeting with information about the program.

- Since the last meeting, the ID program and the Drafting Program have changed divisions from ITT to Language, Communication, and Fine Arts (LCFA) under the coordination of Robert Boyd.
- Currently, the program has 80-95 students enrolled in interior design classes with about 34 majors. 12 students graduated at semester, an increase over last year and evidence that the graduation numbers are increasing gradually. Because not all those who intend to major in interior design have declared a major, there are probably about 50-55 potential total interior design majors with an age range of 18-65.
- The number of students transferring to Texas Tech is also rising. Two students transferred last year, and 3-4 students are preparing for transfer this year. Most of these students are younger, with few permanent ties to the area. Those with families tend to stay here for the Professional Certificate.
- One reason for fluctuating numbers, besides increased graduation, is the program orientation held in the Fall. Many students do not realize the extent and difficulty of the program coming in and through orientation; they are better prepared for the rigors of the program. We hope to add an orientation session in the Spring as well, and are going to try to set it up in the week prior to beginning of classes.
- The board members were informed about the intended implications of the bond election for the interior design and drafting programs. The current plan is for both programs to move to Washington Campus into Parcels Hall, probably the fourth floor. However, that is only the preliminary plan. Things could change with time.
- Several students (and graduates) are currently working in the field for area professionals and those professionals commenting have had positive things to say about the quality of the work generated by those students and graduates.

Velvet Knight presented information on student activities:

- Planning is underway for a student trip to Chicago to attend the national Kitchen and Bath Industry Show. They are also planning on visiting several museums, architectural landmarks, and the Chicago design center.
- The officer group for the student club is very strong and active this year and has really worked at involving the newer students in the activities.
- Students and faculty travelled to Lubbock to tour the interior design program at Texas Tech in October. The student portfolios were on display and students got an idea of the work required in their portfolios for transfer purposes.
- Students travelled last year to Dallas to visit and tour the World Trade Center and several architectural firms. They also had the opportunity to tour a couple of commercial projects currently under construction.
- The students hosted a CEU session on Feb. 29 for students and professionals to raise money for their trip to Chicago
- Students have also participated in community service projects such as Evelyn Rivers Christmas Project, and the Relay for Life.
- When asked if the students planned on attending the state ASID chapter's student day, Velvet reported on the reaction of our students to the last one they attended. Since most of the students in attendance at the Dallas event were 4-year program students, most of the agenda was geared toward those students. It was also felt that those who planned the event did not have much respect for 2-year programs of design and were not complementary in the discussions surrounding those related issues. Several students dropped from the program at the end of that semester because of the attitudes they experienced at that meeting. Many felt that without a 4-year degree, they would be unable to work in the field. In spite of our assurances to the contrary, we still lost several of those students.

Ann Fry discussed some proposed changes in the basic curriculum.

- As a result of the need to augment the program with developing product and technology changes, those attending agreed to combining INDS 1301 Basic Elements of Design with INDS 1341 Color Theory to make room for a course on Materials and to work at integrating more coursework on sustainability. The possibility of altering INDS 2330 Building Systems class toward green architecture and alternative building systems was shown as a possibility.
- There was also much discussion on the viability of developing the current 3-year Professional Certificate into a 4-year baccalaureate program. Three community colleges in Texas have been allowed to do this and the potential exists for this program to follow suit. However, much research and planning will have to be completed in order for this to happen. Those board members attending agreed that we should look into the process since many students could not leave Amarillo to attend a four-year program. The program would be developed with future consideration of accreditation by the Council for Interior Design Education Accreditation (CIDA), following its guidelines in developing additional curriculum. The rationale discussed for pursuing the baccalaureate were:
 - Current state laws defining qualifications for interior designers (currently a "Title" Act in the state of Texas)

- Discussions currently underway to further define and limit the practice of those involved in interior design (a proposed “Practice Act” to be proposed next legislative session)
- Texas Tech currently has more students apply for admission into their program than they can handle, so our relationship should not suffer from it.
- Any community college with a baccalaureate program must have an articulation agreement with a 4-year institution to ensure continuation of education of its students should the program dissolve and we have that agreement already in place.
- Board members in attendance encouraged communication with CIDA during the development phase of the program to aide in the accreditation process. There are several university programs that are not accredited by CIDA, and we want to do everything possible to attain accreditation when the time comes.
- A possible target date for curriculum changes was set to coincide with the proposed move to Washington Campus. Because this is a very involved process and must gain approval at several levels, some changes will take longer periods of time to accomplish.

With no more discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted by Sherrie Beasley, ASID