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LAIAD ADVISORY BOARD MEETING NO.1 MINUTES

Date	October 1, 2018
То	Carmen Dones Dean, Academic Affairs WLAC
From	William Taylor
Meeting	Advisory Board
Subject	AS in Architecture Degree
Present	William Taylor: LAIAD (WT) Carl Smith: LAIAD (CS) Matthew Chaney: Ehrlich, Yanai, Rhee, Chaney (MC) Michael Folonis: Folonis Architects (MF) Heather Flood: F-Lab and Woodbury University (HF) Ehsaan Mesghali: LAIAD and Culver City HS (EM) Archer Stephenson: LAIAD student (AS)
Location	Teleconference
Сс	Aracely Aguilar Cari Hildebrand Kimberly Manner Carl Smith

- 1.1 This meeting was called to assess the workplace related benefits of establishing an Associates degree program in Architecture at West Los Angeles College in cooperation with LAIAD.
- 1.2 WT introduced the board members to each other. Nick Seirup was absent.
- 1.3 WT and CS began the meeting with an overview of the AS process at WLAC, and the benefits at WLAC such as veteran's benefits would be accepted for LAIAD courses, financial aid at WLAC would be more efficient, International students would only need to take 6 units at WLAC, etc.
- 1.4 WT and CS then asked the question: From the point of view of architecture firms, Would having a associates degree rather than a collection of related courses be beneficial to students seeking internships or jobs?
- 1.5 MF stated that he thought the AS degree would benefits students seeking work.
- 1.6 MC: speaking from the perspective of his firm as they interview and hire, if someone shows up with a collection of courses only, they would not even consider them for hiring. But if someone showed up with a degree, showing the ability to complete an educational program, with the focus and commitment that that entails, they would absolutely consider them for internship (all of their hires begin as interns, on probation, even with professional degree). He went on to say that if the interns performs well, they could be considered for full-time employment.
- 1.7 HF stated that she definitely felt that the AS degree would help AS grads land jobs. She added that there is a large spectrum of job opportunities outside the strictly defined architecture practice, such as working for the city or other agencies, otr trades such as construction or plumbing, etc. where at least an associate's degree would be required.

- 1.8 HF: "The AS degree will get them jobs in a wide range of fields" She went on to point out that in related fields, a collection of architecture courses would not really be understood as a viable credential.
- 1.9 HF further stated that as state funding for community colleges transitions from enrollment based to placement based, then the AS degree would benefit the colleges and graduates alike.
- 1.10 MF pointed out that the AS degree indicates a focus and commitment on the part of a job applicant and that it would definitely be an advantage to a job applicant vs someone who applied for a job with a collection of courses.
- 1.11 MC said, again, that the AS degree indicates a seriousness of purpose, and that it would put them ahead relative to someone without a degree of any kind.
- 1.12 AS agreed, from a student's point of view, that the degree would be an advantage.
- 1.13 EM noted that the courses he teaches at Culver City High School, via <u>Concurrent Enrollment</u>, would receive credit at WLAC. The courses are part of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program at Culver City HS. He also said that he felt the AS degree would be an incentive for HS students to take the HS courses if they led to a degree.

This memorandum represents what LAIAD / William Taylor believes is an accurate documentation of the meeting topics.