

July 20, 2021

Jesmarie Johnson
Executive Director
Planning Education Board

Dear Jesmarie:

I write to request an amendment to the text at <https://www.planningaccreditationboard.org/university-of-illinois-at-urbana-champaign/> summarizing the results of the 2021 Accreditation Report. Specifically, the facilities requirement is correctly listed as partially-met, but the summary states, "The Programs lacks [sic] dedicated instructional space." This is not correct, it's misleading, and it's not consistent with the wording of the May 25, 2021, letter from the Board. (If we completely lacked dedicated instructional space I assume this criterion would have been "unmet.") We have four classrooms that we control for instruction and student work space. One of these four classrooms (Room 227) is a computer lab that also provides space for students to work together on projects. The key space need that prompted this partially-met rating is our need for more space allowing planning students to collaborate and socialize.

Furthermore, I disagree with or don't understand the implication in the May 25 letter, which includes the Sentence "The future Self-Study Reports should provide evidence that program facilities are adequate to address the needs of the Programs, including dedicated studio workspace for students." If the accreditation standards require that each student have a drafting table of their own, then it would be correct. But to my knowledge, this has never been communicated in any PAB document. As noted in the previous paragraph, our computer lab (Room 227) is open to all our students 24/7, and I've never heard that it has too few seats to accommodate everyone who needs both computer access and other workspace for the work they do. The fact that this site visit was conducted virtually and the "visitors" had only a video on which to make their judgment makes it especially important to correct this mistake.

I hope you'll correct this rewording as soon as possible. If you are unable to do so, please let me know as soon as possible so that I may raise this issue with the board before it does any further harm to our programs' reputation.

Yours very sincerely,



Rolf Pendall, AICP, Ph.D.
Professor and Head

c: Jaclyn Hade, PAB