

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**

**AGENDA ITEM: III – A (2)**

**DATE: October 8-9, 2014**

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**SUBJECT: SDSU Intents to Plan – Division of Design**

South Dakota State University (SDSU) has submitted interrelated intent to plan requests for five programs:

- BFA in Architecture
- BFA in Graphic Design
- BFA in Interior Design
- BFA in Studio Art
- BLA in Landscape Architecture

The intents to plan relate to SDSU’s development of a “Division of Design.” The vision for the Division of Design includes moving existing programs to the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) or Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree and seeking program accreditation. The attached letter from Provost Nichols explains the Division of Design and the related intent to plan proposals.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Information only.



Office of Academic Affairs

Provost and Vice President for  
Academic Affairs

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September 29, 2014

To: Paul Turman, Vice President for Academic Affairs

From: Laurie Nichols, Provost

RE: Curricula requests for design programs

In the spring of 2012, design faculty from Architecture, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture and Studio Arts were invited to serve on a task force to develop a set of recommendations to:

- Improve and assure academic quality including accreditation of each program;
- Gain visibility for design programs;
- Improve faculty recruitment and retention;
- Create and capture synergies (lower costs) due to sharing of resources and curricula

A task force report was delivered to the President and me last December. Included in the recommendations were plans to accredit each program, except interior design which already holds accreditation. To accomplish accreditation and better align with accreditation standards, the task force also recommended moving each program from a BS or BA to Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) or Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA). The BFA and BLA are professional design degrees and will achieve stronger, enriched, and better coordinated programs. Attached to this memo are 5 Intent to Plan requests to transition these programs from BS/BA degrees to BFA/BLA degrees.

Last January, 2014 the Division of Design was named as a temporary structure to bring these design programs more formally together and allow the faculty to continue working together. Since that time, they have:

- Developed a mission statement, values and goals
- Created a common first-year experience
- Pursued work toward accreditation
- Designed new professional curriculums
- Developed new faculty standards that reflect higher professionalism
- Developed an exhibit of faculty design work in Sioux Falls

The Division of Design will continue to work through this academic year with an intent to name a more permanent structure next summer.