



Council
for **Interior
Design**
Accreditation

206 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.
Suite 350
Grand Rapids, MI
49503

T: 616 970 6668
E: info@accredit-id.org
accredit-id.org

July 20, 2023

Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost
Virginia Commonwealth University
901 West Franklin Street
Box 842527
Richmond, VA 23284-2527

Dear Dr. Sotiropoulos:

The CIDA Accreditation Commission reviewed the interior design program at Virginia Commonwealth University leading to the Master of Fine Arts in Design, Interior Environments degree at their May 12-13, 2023 meeting. In preparation for this meeting, the Commission reviewed the Program Analysis Report prepared by the program and the CIDA Team Report prepared by the team that reviewed the program on December 2-13, 2022. The Visiting Team Report described weaknesses in Standard 14. Environmental Systems and Human Wellbeing, and in Standard 15. Construction.

Standard 14. *Interior designers use the principles of acoustics, thermal comfort, indoor air quality, and water and waste systems in relation to environmental impact and human wellbeing.* Weaknesses related to student learning expectations a, f, g, h, and i led the Accreditation Commission to determine that Standard 14 is in non-compliance.

Standard 15: *Interior designers understand interior construction and its interrelationship with base building construction and systems.* Weaknesses related to student learning expectations e, f, h, i, and j led the Accreditation Commission to determine that Standard 15 is in non-compliance.

In order to be accredited, a program must comply or partially comply with all sixteen standards. Program non-compliance with one or more standards leads to probation or denial of accreditation. Additional information regarding CIDA's definitions of 'compliance with standards' can be found on page 8 of CIDA's Professional Standards 2020. This document is available for download on the CIDA website at <http://accredit-id.org/professional-standards>.

Probation is an accreditation status that requires the program to improve areas of weakness within a specific period of time in order to maintain CIDA accreditation. The program maintains all rights and responsibilities of an accredited program. The CIDA policy on probation is enclosed. During the probation period, the program is expected to improve student achievement in areas noted as weak under Standards 14 and 15 as well as maintain compliance with other CIDA Standards.

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**Holly Mattson, Hon. FASID
Hon. IDC**



Page 2

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July 20, 2023

No later than April 30, 2025, a site visit must be conducted to determine compliance with Standards 14 and 15 and to assess continued compliance with the remaining Standards. The program coordinator may request a site visit at any time prior to the end of the two-year probationary period. If possible, one of the site visitors that participated in the fall 2022 review will also participate in the probationary visit.

Virginia Commonwealth University will be expected to pay the cost of the visit. Specifically, the institution will be invoiced for the Site Visit Fee, Travel Fee, and will cover site visitor expenses for lodging, food, and local transportation. For additional information, please see CIDA's Accreditation Policy and Procedure, Section VIII. Fees, which is available for download at <https://www.accredit-id.org/policyandprocedures>.

The Accreditation Commission has directed the CIDA staff to assist you with managing the details of this visit. Please feel free to correspond with us if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Holly Mattson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Holly Mattson, Hon. IDC, Hon. FASID
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: Carmenita D. Higginbotham, Virginia Commonwealth University
Roberto Ventura, Virginia Commonwealth University
James Wiznerovicz, Virginia Commonwealth University
Christiana Lafazani, Virginia Commonwealth University
Holly Alford, Virginia Commonwealth University
Kristin Carleton, Virginia Commonwealth University
CIDA Visiting Team