1.4 Conditions/Criteria Not Met

B.8 Environmental Systems
Cleared of future reporting for this Condition/Criterion by acceptance of the program’s Annual Report 2011.

1.5 Causes of Concern
A. Physical Resources
1. Building Deficiencies: The team found building code, fire safety code, and IT/telecommunication deficiencies in the existing building which we encourage the program to develop a plan to mitigate.

Response from program:

The program moved into a new interdisciplinary structure on August 1, 2012.

The Center for the Built Environment and Infrastructure Studies (CBEIS) is a 126,000 GSF shared facility for academic engineering and design programs at Morgan State University. CBEIS houses research and instructional programs for the School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P) and the School of Engineering’s Civil Engineering, Transportation Studies, and the National Transportation Center, in a highly collaborative environment within and among these disciplines.

CBEIS is a gateway building on the northern-most edge of the Morgan State campus. It also creates a strong link with and relate to the existing campus. The building interacts with two very different environments: the urban context along Perring Parkway and the natural landscape of the Herring Run. CBEIS is the link between these two environments.

Along with the site and the program, Morgan State has mandated that the new facility be at the forefront of sustainable design practices, utilizing high performance materials and systems, serving, both a demonstration and incubator of responsible planning, design, engineering and cutting-edge technology. The minimum requirement for the CBEIS building is to achieve LEED Silver certification, however, LEED Gold or Platinum certification is being targeted as not only possible, but strongly preferable.

Some of the specific features of CBEIS include:
34 Classrooms/Studios/Computer Labs, 100 Offices, 10 Group Study Rooms, Conference Rooms, Jury Rooms, Fabrication Shop, Atrium spaces with skylights, Lounges, Green Roof, Loading/Service and a parking garage.

CBEIS was designed by Hord Coplan Macht in association with The Freelon Group.
1.5 Causes of Concern (con’t)

A. Physical Resources

2. The current student enrollment has already exceeded the projected student enrollment capacity of the new facility under construction. Anticipated future student growth will put physical resource pressure on the program and new facility. This will result in a shortage of design studio space in the new facility.

Response from program:

The new building has a single large studio space that is shared by the undergraduate pre-professional BSAED program, the NAAB-accredited Master of Architecture degree program, and a graduate program in Landscape Architecture.

The program is actively planning for an expanded and significant presence in downtown Baltimore that will provide relief for design studio space in the new facility. Leased space will be a primary option, with consideration for joint relationships with other organizations and institutions.

1. Utilization of D:Center Space

During fall 2011, the School of Architecture + Planning (SA+P) utilized a downtown space known as the D:Center located at 218 West Saratoga Street. The D:Center, a nonprofit organization which Morgan SA+P helped to established, was awarded a 2500 square foot storefront space by the Downtown Partnership, with additional funding from an external grant.

2. Strategic Planning For Future Downtown Design Studio Space

Progress on strategic planning for future downtown design studio space slowed with the challenges of the physical move into the new facility. However this will be important for the long-term growth and viability of both the pre-professional and the accredited graduate program.

The BSAED has continued to have strong enrollment with 250 registered students filling most of the allotted desks in the new CBEIS Building. Of note is a cohort of 23 junior transfer students with strong architectural design preparation coming from certificate programs at three area community colleges. In spring 2012 the pre-professional BSAED program celebrated the first graduating class of over 30 students including 23 African Americans. BSAED current physical resources continue to be a challenge; BSAED is using all 140 of their allocated desks in the new building.

Graduate architecture has 70 desks allocated, and with a recently reduced enrollment is stable for space needs at present. However in the more distant future, additional space will be essential for program growth.

1.5 Causes of Concern (con’t)

B. Human Resources: There is a sufficient number of faculty for an architectural program; but, there is a lack of tenured faculty members in the graduate architecture program which will be problematic as the program continues to grow and mature.
Response from program:

During academic year 2011-12, two Architecture faculty and one BSAED faculty were reviewed for tenure and promotion; one received tenure, one received an additional deferral year, and one was dismissed from the University. The vacant tenure track was temporarily filled with a one year contractual Lecturer, and the department will conduct a full search to fill this position with an Assistant or Associate Professor beginning July 1, 2013. It will be critical to the program’s human resources to have this position filled. Additionally, if the faculty person who received a deferral year is not retained, it will also be critical for that tenure-track position to be filled.

One Assistant Professor took a Leave of Absence for academic year 2012-13, and his position was temporarily filled with a one-year contractual Lecturer. Another faculty member, the newly-tenured Associate Professor, BSAED, is on Sabbatical as a Senior Fulbright Scholar in India.

One existing Lecturer position was converted to an Assistant Professor in the architecture program, and also one Lecturer position in the BSAED program was converted to Assistant Professor. Together the pre-professional and the NAAB-accredited program have gained two Assistant Professors, assuming that the position currently occupied by a Lecturer is fully restored to Assistant or Associate Professor, tenure track.

The department of architecture chair continues to actively mentoring non-tenured junior faculty in research that will enhance their evaluation for tenure, and she actively advises non-tenured junior faculty on their research projects, as well as their teaching methods and service activities.

The full-time faculty in the Department of Architecture have almost no opportunity to develop and teach elective course offerings because of teaching responsibilities for required classes. Out of consideration for limited faculty resources, the graduate program in architecture generally has not be able to offer our graduate electives, in any enrichment area, for example: sustainability, research-based materials of construction, advanced theory, specialized history topics, advanced computer aided design, etc. The poverty of graduate architectural electives negatively impacts regional standing. This has historically diminished the educational depth of the program, and limits the ability of the program to recruit students, on the local, regional and international scale.

On the positive side, the graduate architecture program has supported the collateral graduate programs by sending architecture students on a regular basis into their elective offerings (Landscape and CREP).

Meanwhile, the architecture program has tenure track faculty persons who have never had the opportunity to teach elective course work in the areas of their research in the normal academic year. This has undercut their ability to develop their research as part of their pedagogy. Other programs within the SA+P regularly create and offer opportunities to teach elective course work to their tenured or tenure track faculty, and also to their contractual lecturers. There is concern about allocating teaching resources for elective courses that appears to exclude the graduate program in architecture. Historically, the graduate program has a done a good job of sending students to other programs for elective coursework, which reinforces the interdisciplinary nature of the three graduate programs.

There has been a decrease in funding available for adjunct faculty.
1.5 Causes of Concern (con’t)
C. Financial Resources: As the faculty numbers continue to increase in 2011/2012 funding for faculty professional development opportunities are limited. Additional resources will be needed.

Response from program:

The individual departments in the School of Architecture + Planning do not have independent budgets. There is not a specifically designated architecture budget.

There has been a decrease in funding for faculty travel across the SA+P, including architecture.

There is a proposal within the strategic plan to reduce the undergraduate teaching load of 12 credits per semester in phases which will enhance undergraduate program faculty development in research. The graduate teaching load is 9 credits per semester.

As mentioned above, there has been a decrease in funding available for adjunct faculty, which continues to restrict the full-time graduate architecture faculty to teaching required classes, and limit the full-time faculty’s ability to develop elective coursework, integrate individual research plans with teaching, and enrich the curriculum.

Changes in Program since last NAAB visit:

Curriculum:

Curricular changes: in Architecture, the only realized curricular change since March 2011 has been the adjustment to ARCH.523 Architectural Technology III (Environmental Controls) described in the Annual Report of 2011.

Progress has been made on enhancement of the history and theory sequence, and will be submitted to the School of Graduate Studies for curriculum approval, in February 2013. Progress continues with the long-term proposal for an historic preservation degree/certificate.

The BSEAD added five new courses including an independent study course and four new courses in Historic Preservation in conjunction with the School’s developing historic preservation program. The upper level technology seminar has begun to teach Rhino and digital fabrication in conjunction with new rapid prototyping, CNC fabrication and laser fabrication available in the CBEIS fabrication lab.

Other BSAED highlights included a summer design build studio developed the ‘Roadhouse’ project for an outdoor music performance venue in conjunction the Baltimore’s annual Artscape festival. This is the third school participation in this event and represents partnerships with the Mayor’s office of Promotion and the Arts and with local non-for profit organizations.