

TO: Lawrence Williams, Chair
Undergraduate Council
FROM: Richard Scamell
Degree Programs Committee: Programs
SUBJECT: Proposal UC 10227 09S – Bachelor of Science Degree with a Major in Interior Architecture
DATE: March 18, 2009

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The Committee met on Wednesday, February 18 to consider proposal UC 10227 09S. Participating in the discussion were committee members Betty Barr, Christina Hughes, Iain Morrison, and Richard Scamell. Lannis Kirkland attended the meeting as a guest.

The College of Architecture currently offers undergraduate three degrees: Bachelor of Architecture, Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design, and Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design. UC 10227 09S proposes to create a program that leads to a Bachelor of Science with a major in Interior Architecture. This program is designed to provide education for those who wish to practice interior architecture and intends to meet the standards of the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners for licensure as an Interior Designer. The program will be an integrated program with the current architecture and industrial design programs and utilize the resources existing from those programs.

Even though the Houston Metropolitan area accounts for 22 percent of the total number of interior designers employed in the state of Texas, Houston is the only one of the four largest cities in the state without a program in either interior architecture or interior design at a public institution (the Art Institute of Houston, a private institution, offers a program). Regional architectural firms with significant work in interiors have strongly expressed a need for such a program at the University of Houston.

In 2007, there were 145 accredited bachelor's degree programs in interior design in the United States, most of which were part of schools or departments of art, architecture, or design with a few remaining in home economics and elsewhere. In fact, the University of Houston had a long-standing degree program in interior design in the School of Art leading to a Bachelor of Fine Arts where interior design was one of five studio concentrations. This program is no longer accepting new students and requires that current students complete their degree by the Spring 2009 semester. Since discontinuation of this program, the College of Architecture has received numerous inquiries about studying interiors.

While the interior design program offered through the School of Art had over 200 majors, the proposed interior architecture program will be more selective and serve about one-third the number of majors. Unlike the discontinued program, graduates from the Interior Architecture program will be able to seek state licensure as a registered interior designer. In addition, the Interior Architecture program will be specifically designed to seek accreditation from the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) – the group that accredits interior design programs nationally. Enrollment projections in terms of headcount and full-time student equivalent (FTSE) for the first five years of the program are expected to be:

YEAR	1	2	3	4	5
Headcount	10	25	50	60	65
FTSE	10	25	50	60	65

The degree program includes a total of 132 semester hours: the 42 hours that comprise the University of Houston core curriculum requirement, 66 hours of required courses, 18 hours of prescribed electives, and 6 hours of free electives. The required courses include (a) four five-hour design studios, (b) four five-hour interior architecture design studios, and (c) courses in architectural history, human factors, conceptual structural systems, conceptual environmental systems, architectural programming and building regulations, and materials and methods of interior architecture. Nine new courses (a total of 35 hours) would be added to the curriculum if this new degree program is approved. Plans call for a faculty member who will have direct administrative responsibility for the program to be hired in the Fall 2009 semester.

Recommendation

The Degree Programs Committee: Programs supports UC 10227 09S.