Learning & Teaching Culture Policy

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The Learning & Teaching Culture Policy (LTCP) is a document prepared to explain the unique role of the studio classroom atmosphere in an architectural education. The environment assists the pursuit of scholarship, opportunity, celebrating personal and communal achievements, and develops responsibility on the scale of social, cultural and environmental issues faced in the world today. Students of Architecture uphold Fairmont State University's mission of S.O.A.R.* as below.

Scholarship: Exploration of critical ideas through the synthesis of individual and collaborative efforts. With multi-media usage establishing Architecture as a process, not a product. Participate in engaged discussions. Develop a coalescence of Design Principles Informed by the Reality of Professional Practice. **Opportunity:** To grow, learn, engage and contribute. **Achievement:** To reach personal and community goals. **Responsibility:** To fulfill obligations to the architectural profession that are respectful of social, cultural and environmental issues.

Faculty Responsibilities

Faculty share the responsibility of educating with the students. Faculty are responsible for the academic advising of students. They should bring to the classroom the desire to improve a student's understanding of architecture and, ultimately, inspire students to achieve their goals. Faculty should provide clear direction and milestones for the class and encourage critical discussions and healthy debate. Establishing expectations at the onset of a project ensures that students have adequate time to organize a school-work-life balance. A school-work-life balance includes mental and physical health encompassing enough sleep, nourishment, and movement outside of the classroom to be well-rounded individuals. Faculty must recognize that each student is an individual with inherent background and values, and they should promote the study of architecture embodying individual and collaborative ideals. Faculty are responsible for holding students to high standards that help students fulfill obligations to themselves.

Student Expectations

Students are responsible for their part in the education process. They should be prepared to put in the time and effort proportional to their academic goals. The design studio is a place for open conversation and engaged learning; it is anticipated that each student will work to foster a positive environment that encourages a healthy balance between study and personal time.

Students are expected to be: present, prepared, and attentive in class including extra- and co-curricular activities; aware of official university communication via email; prepared for university life; polite and respectful to everyone in our academic community.

Student-Student Relationships

Students should be respectful of all individuals, their concerns, culture, and possessions. The studio is unique with respect to peer-to-peer learning. Students need to recognize that they are part of a community and should conduct themselves appropriately. They should not engage in an activity that is disruptive or offensive to others. No Tobacco is permitted in the classroom or computer lab. Cell Phones should be silenced before class and put away before crit. Disruptive behavior, in any form, will not be tolerated. This includes vulgar language, rude gestures, loud music, or talking. Students should keep personal and common spaces clean. Students should log off computers when not in use. Students should be courteous of other classes on the floor outside of the architectural studios.

Student –Faculty Relationships

Students and faculty are working cooperatively in the education process. Mutual respect is essential for open and fruitful communication that encourages all parties to make their best effort at achieving success. Faculty need to clearly communicate expectations and values as well as any modifications or deadlines made in assignments to students. Faculty should be facilitators rather than counterproductive critics, offering both positive and critical assessments based on the belief a student has the capability to push architectural work to a heightened level. Harsh criticism geared toward uncovering inadequacies rather than encouraging positive feedback and interaction should not be practiced. Students should accept

critique from the faculty in a responsive and productive manner. Reviews are meant to improve performance and scholarship and should be viewed in a positive light. Professionals practicing in the community are often invited as guest speakers and to presentation critiques. Architects, alumni working in government fields, landscape architects, and structural engineers, for example, offer different points of view and allow student exposure to a range of jobs the architectural education allows. This provides for a diverse perspective and conversation.

Administrative Responsibilities
The administration is responsible for upholding the mission and direction of the program by engaging faculty and students in decisions that impact the program. The administration is responsible for providing an adequate and safe learning environment, to support educational events such as gallery exhibitions, lectures, etc. The administration is responsible for the advocacy of student and faculty concerns. They must provide sufficient guidance, resources, and oversight to affirm the program's ability to conform to the conditions for accreditation.

First Aid and Emergencies
Students, faculty, and staff should exercise caution and good sense when working in any architecture studio. To provide equity in access to woodshop tools, the plotters, 3D printers, AutoDesk and Adobe programs, the laser cutter, etc. students and faculty are expected to act with respect to the university equipment. This section describes general guidelines for use in all studios.
If a serious accident occurs, call 911 immediately and give the location of the studio and the nature of the injury. An emergency phone is located next to the door in ET 203, ET 207, ET 208, ET 209, and ET 212. Always carry information about your medical conditions with you. Report any injuries to your professor. Know where the fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and emergency phone are for every workspace. Know the room number and name of the building for your studio. Emergency exits are clearly marked in the Engineering Technology Building. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the fire egress options from their location in the building. Clean up spills, pick up trash or dropped materials, and disconnect cords before they become problems. Power tools are not permitted in the studio unless special permission is given by the instructor. See Production Lab Safety Procedures and Authorization in the Student Handbook. (Link below) Focus on what you are doing. Absolutely no horseplay in studios.

General Studio Maintenance
Students must remove all trash and unwanted materials from their workspaces and common areas and keep common workplace areas clean and free of debris. All student work and personal items must be removed at the end of every semester to make room for other students. Students must understand that drawings and other items left for others to put away will more likely be discarded or given to other students. Furniture and items from studios are not to leave the studio. You may not block exits, including the windows. Glue must be wiped immediately from all surfaces. Cutting mats should always be used. Never cut directly on a table or a floor surface. Locks on desks and containers will be cut and contents removed and disposed of after an announced date of removal. This may occur as early as the last day of classes. A "studio clean-up" date will be announced for each class that meets in the studio. Students are expected to participate in removing work and helping to clean the space at the end of the semester.
The Architecture Program is unable to store work for you. However, we may request to retain some of your work for NAAB accreditation purposes. Make arrangements to have transportation for the work by the removal date.

Handbook Reference and Closing Notes
The LTCP is updated on a bi-annual basis by the AIAS and student organization advisor to adhere to the 2020 NAAB conditions for accreditation.
Refer to Student Handbook: https://www.fairmontstate.edu/publications/campushandbooks/studenthandbook/default.asp