



**Australian  
Institute of  
Architects**

Australian Institute of Architects  
Queensland Chapter  
2/270 Montague Road  
WEST END QLD 4101  
T +617 3828 4100  
qld@architecture.com.au  
architecture.com.au

1 December 2020

Professor Deborah Terry AO  
Vice-Chancellor and President  
The University of Queensland  
ST LUCIA QLD 4072  
Via email: vc@uq.edu.au

Dear Professor Terry

The Australian Institute of Architects is the peak body for architecture and represents 11,500 members. The Queensland Chapter Council of the Institute represents 2,199 members throughout Queensland, including students, graduates, academics and practicing members.

The principle purpose of the Institute is to:

- advance architecture
- advance education, culture and social or public welfare, through architecture
- advocate for the profession; and
- encourage education in architecture

In support of our mission, we are seeking a meeting with you, Professor Vicki Chen and Professor Cameron Bruhn to obtain more information about current changes to the University's School of Architecture. We are hopeful of receiving assurance that the discipline and profession of architecture will not be diminished in this current shift within the School.

We understand the School of Architecture plans to offer additional design courses to improve the School's future sustainability. Aware of the value and importance of design education, we support the expansion of courses in principle. However, the changes appear significant and the way they are occurring is of considerable concern to many members of the Institute.

Ahead of a meeting, please note the following questions and concerns that we are receiving from members. We would appreciate your response to these:

1. We are hearing significant concerns from current University of Queensland architecture students, and our broader student network, around lack of information about the proposed changes. We would appreciate your assurance that the University intends to consult with and provide updates to key sector stakeholders including our Student Organised Network for Architecture (SONA), the Emerging Architect and Graduates Network (EmAGN), the Architectural Accreditation Council of Australia (AACAA), Board of Architects Queensland (BoAQ), the Association of Consulting Architects (ACA) and our Institute members.
2. The School of Architecture has a long-standing and far-reaching reputation for its research in specialist domains such as Aboriginal Environments. We recognise the importance of knowledge in this area in order to progress reconciliation and the decolonisation of built environment disciplines. How will the School manage the continuity of specialist knowledge and research, along with providing supervisors with equivalent qualifications, standing and backgrounds for those currently undertaking high degrees through research?

The Royal Australian Institute of Architects  
trading as Australian Institute of Architects  
ABN 72 000 023 012

3. With the proposed increase in courses offered and reduction in full-time equivalent academic staff, how will the School meet the Architectural Accreditation Council of Australia's course accreditation requirements? Will the student size be reduced in line with the reduction in FTE dedicated architecture staff to maintain an optimal teacher/student ratio?
4. A high standard of education for future architects is crucial for our profession. We recognise the importance of engaging full-time academics, along with registered practitioners, to deliver the architecture curriculum and ensure protection of the profession's rigorous statutory, licencing and registration requirements, particularly in a public and political environment of heightened concerns around building quality. We also note the importance of diverse representation in teaching staff. How will the school maintain and balance these relationships as part of the proposed changes?
5. We appreciate the connection between practice and the university can be of profound benefit to both entities, and that a balance of theoretical and industry relevant research is important. How will the proposed changes to the School achieve balanced and relevant research?

Chapter Council is concerned that the changes, as we understand them, present a significant disruption to a highly regarded architecture school and we are perturbed about the impact of these changes on the architectural community. We realise that this is a difficult time of year to arrange a meeting. However, we look forward to discussing the changes and implications for our profession with you as soon as possible.

Our State Manager, Alice-Anne McRobbie, can be contacted to arrange timing our end. Her direct number is 0417 772 827 and email is [alice-anne.mcrobbie@architecture.com.au](mailto:alice-anne.mcrobbie@architecture.com.au).

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Yours sincerely



Dr Michael Lavery FRAIA  
Queensland Chapter President  
Director, m3architecture



Paul Trotter FRAIA  
Immediate Past Chapter President  
Director, Fulton Trotter Architects

Oh behalf of Queensland Chapter Councillors:

- Belinda Allwood FRAIA, People Oriented Design, Cairns
- Lindy Atkin LFRAIA, Bark Architects, Sunshine Coast
- Penelope Campbell FRAIA, Campbell Paton Architects, Brisbane
- Jim Gall FRAIA, Gall Architects, Brisbane
- Leah Gallagher RAIA, Kin Architects, Brisbane
- Paul Jones RAIA, OMA, Brisbane, Australia and international (Chair, Queensland Practice Committee)
- Dr Rosemary Kennedy FRAIA, Mulder+Kennedy Architects, Brisbane
- Lisa Moore RAIA, And Architecture, Brisbane (Chair, AIA National Education Committee)
- Jess Owen (Co-Chair, EmAGN Queensland)
- Genevieve Vella (Co-Chair, EmAGN Queensland)
- Paul Worroll FRAIA, Reddog Architects, Brisbane (Chair, Queensland Climate Action and Sustainability Committee)

NB: Dr Andrew Wilson FRAIA is a Chapter Councillor, but has abstained from this representation, or any discussion/ deliberation around our approach to this issue.

**CC: Professor Vicki Chen, Professor Cameron Bruhn**