Present Future Architecture Masters Name Change Proposal

Approved by the Faculty Senate November 20, 2019

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Rice Architecture

To: Professor April Deconick, chair Graduate Council
From: John J. Casbarian, Interim Dean of Architecture
Date: 7 October 2019
Subject: Proposal to change degree for existing **Present Future** program from Master of Arts in Architecture to **Master of Science in Architecture**

Objective: The School of Architecture wishes to change the degree nomenclature of one of our existing graduate programs, **Present Future**, from a Master of Arts in Architecture to a **Master of Science in Architecture** to conform with the degree for similar programs at peer institutions.

Rationale: The School of Architecture currently offers three graduate program tracks, 2 of which are accredited and result in the professional Master of Architecture degree. The third, **Present Future**, open to both post-professional and non-professional advanced degree holders leads to a Master of Arts in Architecture. This program, established in 2013, was a re-configuration of an existing post-professional degree track that resulted in a non-professional Master of Architecture degree. Because of the confusion between an accredited and non-accredited Master of Architecture degree, the architecture accrediting organization, NAAB, mandated that all non-accredited Master of Architecture degree tracks like ours cease using this degree name by 2019. We chose the Master of Arts degree for the **Present Future** program to attract a larger pool of applicants to include both advanced architecture professional degree holders and those in related design and environmental fields.

Reason for Change in Degree Name: Instead of expanding the pool of competitive candidates for this program we found that the Master of Arts In Architecture degree was not as attractive to advanced architecture degree holders since our peers offer Master of Science in Architecture degrees for the same course of study, thus limiting our pool of applicants to only non-architecture degree holders. We believe that changing the degree to a **Master of Science in Architecture** will achieve our initial goals for applicants to this program.

Change in Course of Study and Faculty: None

Risk Assessment: None

List of Peer Schools of Architecture Degrees for Similar Post-Professional Degree Program, (current Present Future program listed at end):

CORNELL: Master of Science
Cornell's post-professional Master of Science, Advanced Architectural Design program (M.S. AAD) is an intensive, advanced architectural design research program open to individuals holding a B.Arch. or professional M.Arch. degree. The program offers a critical framework for investigating pertinent design

concerns, practices, and technologies in 21st-century architecture and urbanism. Three- and four-semester options are available, both starting with a summer semester in New York City and continuing at the Ithaca campus.

COLUMBIA: Master of Science

The Master of Science degree in Advanced Architectural Design is a three-term program consisting of summer, fall, and spring terms. The objective of the program is to provide outstanding young professionals who hold a Bachelor of Architecture or Master of Architecture an opportunity to engage with and conceptualize design as a critical practice that shapes the world's technological, relational and environmental evolutions. The program is viewed as a framework in which both academic and professional concerns are explored. Overall, the program emphasizes an experimental approach to research and architectural design rigorously grounded in contemporary challenges.

HARVARD: Master in Architecture II (change of name pending)

MIT: Master of Science

The Master of Science in Architecture Studies is a two-year program of advanced study founded on research and inquiry in architecture as a discipline and as a practice. Students pursue work in one of six areas of concentration, with opportunities to explore connections across these areas and beyond to other programs and departments at MIT.

PRINCETON : Master in Architecture II (change of name pending)

YALE: Master of Architecture II (change of name pending)

SCI ARC: Master of Architecture II (change of name pending)

GEORGIA TECH: Master of Science

The M.S. in Architecture degree provides students holding professional degrees in architecture (B.Arch or M.Arch) or with equivalent degrees in allied fields of design or engineering with research-based knowledge that is applicable to the advancement of professional practice. The program contributes to the development of the applied knowledge-base of the profession at a time when new enabling and end-product technologies, new patterns of global practice and project delivery, and new performance requirements and expectations are transforming professional practice.

U of H: Master of Science

The Master of Science in Architecture [MS in Architecture] is a post-professional degree focused on deep research through experimental design inquiry. This program is dedicated to cutting edge research and experimentation, and seeks to explore in a highly innovative fashion the cultural and technological landscapes of Houston. With a highly flexible curriculum, the degree allows for maximum individuation within both the graduate topic studios and an open selection of elective courses. The degree provides for an intensive yearlong (two semester) degree track with highly individuated curation of content allowing for a deep and focused inquiry. Culminating in an individual yearlong Master Degree Project, the post-professional students have an opportunity to examine diverse issues confronting contemporary practice through critical design inquiry.

UT Austin: Master of Advanced Architectural Design

UCLA: Master of Science

The M.S.AUD is a one-year post-professional degree program that leads to a Masters of Science in Architecture and Urban Design degree. The program is open to students with a NAAB-accredited five-year Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch) degree, a graduate degree in architecture, or the foreign equivalent. This unique program offers students with a professional degree in architecture the opportunity to specialize their skills and apply architectural design thinking and capabilities to real-world challenges outside the field. The program is exclusively located at UCLA Architecture and Urban Design's IDEAS campus, an incubator for collaborative, cross-disciplinary design research. Through year-long design research

topics, students and faculty work with partners working in the areas of entertainment, media, technology, and urbanism. Students apply the analytical and design processes of architecture and urban design to emerging developments in these industries. By engaging with experts from other fields, students have the opportunity to expand architecture's field of influence and leverage design to propose alternative, more intelligent futures.

Washington University Saint Louis: Master of Science

This 36-credit, three-semester program allows individuals already holding NAAB-accredited professional degrees in architecture to pursue advanced design studies, research, and teaching preparation. Schedules for students in this program are varied and highly individual but will include an advanced design studio in each semester. This program leads to a post-professional Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design (MSAAD).

Tulane: Master of Science

Our Post-Professional Master of Science in Architectural Research and Design degree program (formerly known as M. ARCH II.) is the most advanced research venue at Tulane School of Architecture. It is a selective design research degree that builds on the deep expertise of our faculty and the strategic commitment of the school and the university as a whole. It is intended for individuals with an accredited professional architecture degree interested in teaching and research as a career in the field of architecture.

Rice Architecture: Master of Arts, (proposed Master of Science)

Present Future is a three-semester concentrated course of study culminating in a Master of Arts in Architecture degree. Subjects are a pro-seminar the first term, a collective thesis in the second term, and a concluding seminar in the third term. Present Future is equal parts education, research, and think tank. Urbanization, media, globalization, the environment, and technology are just a few of the pressing issues engaged by students and faculty in the program. A select group of students forms the core: a collective intelligence responsible for developing a discourse that synthesizes theoretical, historical, and design ambitions. Subjects will be of contemporary importance, advertised in advance, and framed by 3-credit seminars in the first and last term and a 12-credit collective thesis in the second term. In addition to free electives, each semester will include additional required credits that are deemed appropriate to the research topic. The program's student body will include those with backgrounds in architecture as well as other fields; individuals with B.A., B.S., equivalent, or more advanced degrees in architecture or other disciplines are invited to apply. Each three-semester sequence will culminate in a book, exhibition, or symposium.