Member Message – Update on NAAB funding proposal

To the Members of AIA, AIAS, ACSA and NCARB:

We know architecture school accreditation has the ability to assure that academic programs are delivering a high level of quality in their preparation of future architects. In recent months, the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS), and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) have communicated our ongoing efforts to reach a new funding agreement to continue financial support for the accreditation work conducted by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

The Proposed Accreditation Program Fee Structure that NAAB published in January 2024 involves directly charging schools of architecture for its accreditation-related costs. This is a departure from the past, where financial support was provided through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by its collateral organizations: ACSA, AIA, AIAS, and NCARB. In response to NAAB's proposal, the collateral organizations requested NAAB withdraw the proposal and negotiate a path forward.

To level-set negotiations, AIA and NCARB, with the support of ACSA and AIAS, commissioned an external analysis of the NAAB's operations and finances. As we previously communicated, the report identified inconsistent and erroneous financial management and accounting practices that need to be corrected. We await word from NAAB whether this will be done.

Based on the results of this review, our organizations have concluded that NAAB has sufficient assets on hand, including funds from unspent collateral investments, to support the continued operations of the accreditation process through the 2025 calendar year -- without further investment at this juncture including any direct payments from schools and/or programs. In the meantime, our organizations will continue to engage in conversations with NAAB regarding their proposed future funding models and look forward to working with them to find a solution that meets the needs of all stakeholders.

ACSA, AIA, AIAS, and NCARB look forward to collaborative conversations with our colleagues, including the NAAB, as we seek a solution which continues to support architectural accreditation.

Sincerely,

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