Learning and Teaching Culture:

The culture for growth and learning at the University and Program levels is a stellar example of the educational practices of a land grant institution serving the state of Texas. The learning culture fosters intellectual and personal excellence while maintaining rigorous levels of academic and professional integrity. Syllabi for all courses taught in the Program contain all TAMUS System, Prairie View A&M University, and School of Architecture policies regarding academic integrity, cheating, plagiarism, and conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Student Handbook publicly displays all grade appeal policies and grievance procedures.

The Architecture program faculty is required by the Texas A&M University System to complete policy training periodically and to renew the training each time a substantial policy change occurs. This training includes FERPA, Privacy, Discrimination, Waste and Misuse of property, Information Systems, Reimbursement Procedures, Title XI, and others. Faculty members are required to submit a printed copy of the training transcript during annual performance evaluations to stay in compliance. A broad spectrum of processes, policies, and grievance procedures related to faculty and staff is publicly available in the Faculty Handbook.

Learning Culture: The development of the learning culture has been a priority for the design faculty and the student leaders at Prairie View because so much of professional behavior is molded and modeled in the design studio. The architecture program's learning culture policy was developed and maintained with input from students and faculty. The policy has gone through several iterations. Through the collaborative efforts of the faculty and students, a succinct and concise model for learning and teaching culture has been created and implemented. It is available online in the "Student Handbook."

The motivation behind the effort that created the current learning and teaching culture policy was poignant brevity. Ten core values were identified and traced to their Latin roots and titled Nota Bene, which literally means "note well" and in contemporary English has evolved to connote emphatic instruction to the reader to pay close attention to what is being presented.

The following ten Latin words constitute the learning culture policy of the Architecture program – Note Bene:
1. Veneratio - Respect: for yourself and for the opinion, effort, and property of others.
2. Sermo - Dialogue: engage in discussion; consider current trends, events and change.
3. Rimor - Examine: investigative research, study and exploratory reflection.
4. Curiositas - Inquisitive: Inspire intellectual curiosity; ask the relevant questions.
5. Perseptum - Learn: Quest for lifelong learning, knowledge and pursuit of goals.
6. Accommodo - Adapt: modify and change to accommodate our dynamic profession.
7. Communicare - Participate: give objective critique and dialogue; accept criticism.
8. Audio - Hear: be willing to listen carefully to other opinions before speaking.
9. Pondera - Equilibrium: balance between study, work, recreation, and rest.
10. Professio - Professionalism: be conscientious, in dress, speech, attire, conduct, and affiliations.

Assessment of Learning Culture Policies: The Architecture program engages in ongoing and integrated research-based planning and evaluation processes that: (1) incorporate a systemic review of institutional and program mission, goals, and outcomes; (2) result in continuing improvement in institutional and program quality; and (3) demonstrate the institution and program is effectively accomplishing their mission. The overall assessment of the efficacy of learning culture policies lies in the performance of the

educational framework of the Architecture program itself. This forms the basis for achieving institutional effectiveness related to learning culture policy assessment. The University requires each program to complete an assessment plan articulating the mission, outcomes, and measures with achievement targets and to update the action plan by August of each academic year.

Assessment of the learning culture of the Architecture program leans heavily on performance evaluations of students in the program. Program outcomes for assessment include: (1) Preparing students in performance criteria listed by NAAB SPC; (2) Increase student satisfaction with the overall learning experience in the Architecture Program; and (3) Increase student interest in pursuing licensure for professional practice in the US. In addition, the Architecture program contributes to overall institutional effectiveness by assessing the following core curriculum outcomes: (1) Critical Thinking; (2) Communication; (3) Teamwork; (4) Social Responsibility; and (5) Personal Responsibility.