

November 20, 2016

Danielle Mitchell, Assoc. AIA, Elections Chair
1753 New York Ave.,
Washington, DC 20006
202.808.00755

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

I am writing to inform you of my interest to run for the West Quadrant Director position on the 2017-2018 AIAS National Board of Directors. The appropriate documentation has been included with this letter.

I am currently in the fifth year of the University of Arizona College of Architecture, and I hold the position of the AIAS Arizona Chapter President. My involvement with AIAS at a local level has given me the desire to continue to contribute to this organization at a national level.

My experience with leadership within AIAS includes acting as AIAS Arizona Chapter Fundraising Director, Chapter Vice Presidents, and Chapter President. Through these positions, I have been able to develop and promote supportive networks between faculty and students, as well as local professionals and students. These networks have proven vital in sponsoring students to attend state and national conferences. In addition, I have been able to successfully delegate leadership to accomplish large events, including firm tours with Arizona State University and our Faculty Dinner Auctions. Finally, I have worked tirelessly to provide valuable workshops and resources for our membership, following the organization's mission in "advancing leadership, design, and service."

Through my involvement and time with AIAS Arizona, I have grown immensely, both personally and professionally. I have learned that, as students, we have a voice in our architectural education, and AIAS can help this voice be heard. As the West Quadrant Director, I hope to inspire other leaders, to foster collaboration, and to create supportive networks for leadership to use as resources for their chapters.

The AIAS has provided so much value to my architectural education, and now it is my turn to return the favor. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caitlin Kessler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Caitlin Kessler

CAITLIN KESSLER

[phone] 480.313.1530

[email] cjk2012@email.arizona.edu

EDUCATION

[university]	University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ B. Arch // College of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture Honors College // 5 th Year
[high school]	Apache Junction High School, Apache Junction, AZ HS Diploma :: May 24, 2012 Class Valedictorian // Class size = 350 students

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

[july 2016]	AIAS Grassroots :: Washington DC [delegate for Council of Presidents]
[december 2015]	AIAS Forum :: San Francisco, CA [delegate for Council of Presidents]
[december 2013]	AIAS Forum :: Chicago, IL
[november 2012]	UA Honors College Quinquagenary Performance
[august 2012 -]	University of Arizona Running Club
[august 2012]	Hall Involvement Team

HONORS + ACHIEVEMENTS

[november 2014 -]	Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society [Academic Journal Reviewer]
[april 2016]	Erstad Architects Scholarship
[april 2014]	Richard A. Eribes Scholarship
[may 2012]	Arizona Interscholastic Association Scholar Athlete Award
[may 2012]	Regents High Honors Endorsement Award
[may 2012]	Lost Dutchman Marathon Scholarship
[may 2012]	Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Award

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

[aug 2016 -]	AIAS Design Think Tank
[aug 2016 -]	AIAS Arizona Chapter President
[aug 2015 - may 2016]	AIAS Arizona Chapter Vice President
[aug 2014 - may 2015]	AIAS Arizona Fundraising Director
[aug 2014 – may 2015]	Health + Built Environment Faculty Search Committee :: Class Representative
[jan 2013 - may 2014]	AIAS Class Representative
[aug 2011 - may 2012]	Co-President, National Honor Society

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS + EXPERIENCE

[aug 2012 -]	American Institute of Architecture Students [AIAS]
[may 2014 -]	UA Campus Recreation :: Student Facility Manager
[may 2016 -]	Sakellar pllc :: Architectural Intern
[aug 2015 -]	Architecture History/Theory Teaching Assistant
[may 2015 - nov 2015]	Student Researcher :: UA Drachman Institute
[may 2014 - aug 2014]	GLHN Architects + Engineers :: Summer Architecture Intern

COMMUNITY SERVICE

[AIAS Freedom By Design]	University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
August 2012 -	Service Projects: Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind – Interactive Resting and Gathering Area; Literacy Connects Tucson – reception area
[CAMP Architecture]	University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
June 2014	Responsibilities: Lead campers (middle school + high school students) through various architecture related workshops including fabricating beams, composing drawings, and welding towers.

DATE 2016.11.18
TO **Danielle Mitchell, Associate AIA**
AIAS Chair of Elections Committee
RE recommendation: Caitlin Kessler | AIAS National West Quadrant Director candidate

DEAR MS. MITCHELL: I am please to offer my support to fifth-year B.Arch student and current AIAS Chapter President at the UA, Caitlin Kessler, a candidate for AIAS National West Quadrant Director.

Our AIAS chapter is *vital* to our School, thanks to a succession of remarkable student leaders that includes Caitlin. Our chapter's members are comprised of our best students who embody a spirit of collegiality and extend an influence throughout the School. Ms. Kessler is certainly one of these high achieving, highly principled, and generous students. An Honors student, she has been active in AIAS since starting college. As Vice President, she organized the first *live* Faculty Dinner Auctions, a program in which students bid on dinners hosted by faculty that has become our chapter's greatest fundraiser but that, frankly, is more important for the connections it builds between students and faculty.

Caitlin is also dedicated to community outreach, participating in AIAS Freedom By Design and its regular and vigorous agenda of private and institutional builds. She works in CAMP Architecture, a four-week camp offered each summer to middle and high school students. She attends local professional events and public lectures.

Being a successful student while giving so much time to AIAS and public service requires time management abilities, which she has. In addition to all she does at School, Caitlin holds two paid positions at the University and interns for a local architecture firm.

Ms. Kessler has actively participated in AIAS national events since becoming a member, maintains a high GPA, is a multiple scholarship winner, and holds membership in several other organizations, such as Tau Sigma Delta in which she serves as an editor of the academic journal *[TRANS-]*. She is, in short, a model student and a dynamic young woman whose talents and skills will be a great benefit to the profession in the years to come.

I highly recommend Caitlin Kessler to serve as National West Quadrant Director.

SINCERELY:

**Robert Miller, AIA**President-elect, AIA Southern Arizona
Professor; Director, School of Architecture

ELECTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Throughout high school, I was very involved in a multitude of school activities – from cross-country, to choir, to Academic Decathlon. My passion for these groups manifested into taking on leadership positions, hoping to inspire and encourage my peers. When I entered college, I naturally gravitated toward groups that would feed my curious mind beyond course work. The American Institute of Architecture Students stood out above the rest, with dedicated architecture students promoting positive studio culture, building strong networks with faculty and professionals, and always hosting events that aided in our professional development.

I fell in love with the organization my freshman year. However, I must admit, it was not a dream of mine to lead our school's chapter. I looked up to the chapter's leaders with admiration and awe, wondering how they managed to do so well in school and leading the AIAS Arizona chapter. "How do they do it all?" I remember asking myself. I was certainly inspired by their hard work, yet certainly intimidated as well. Although I had held leadership positions throughout high school, being an architecture student was a completely different game. Luckily, the amazing past leadership of our chapter instilled a drive within me to step up to plate.

I went from being a member on the Social Committee to being the Chapter President. While a lot of personal and professional growth happened in between, one thing remained a constant – my passion to help others. When stressful deadlines and AIAS events coincided, I used this passion to carry on. I still do. AIAS is about the students; it is about giving every opportunity for architecture students to succeed. I didn't know I would be a leader of this organization, but I knew I wanted to work hard to keep the vision a reality.

One piece of advice I have for those who have yet to realize their leadership potential to find that passion and use it as your fire. Even if you have never led others, let others lead you to be the leader you were meant to be.

2. Studio culture is an issue I personally find the most important for architecture students. Studio is where we spend the most amount of time throughout of college career. It fosters our creative minds to produce amazing work. Studio is the foundation of architectural practice in terms of collaboration and production. Without positive studio culture, our entire experience could be negative and detrimental to our potential.

When my school's studios were experiencing aspects of negative studio culture, our AIAS chapter organized forums to create open communication between the students and faculty. These simple efforts went a long way in transforming our studio culture. While many agree that we need positive studio culture, there is still work to be done to curate these environments.

As an elected leader of the AIAS National Board of Directors, I will work fervently to advocate for change. First, there has to be an understanding of studio culture nationally, so surveys and similar methods would be conducted. Then, it is all about communication and advocacy. As a national organization, we have a strong system of support to create change within environments that desperately need it. Students who have experienced any aspect of negative studio culture should know that AIAS is here to help. We can create positive change through open communication with schools and their leaders. We can use the support of our associated organizations to make progress. However, it is all about communication and collaboration, and an elected leader, I can help unite and challenge these efforts to make a difference.

3. With so many members and students across the world, it is all about reaching out to connect our diverse membership. While social media is an engaging and accessible platform, conducting virtual meetings with chapter leadership is equally as important. Our membership needs to know that the Board of Directors is available as support and a resource for their chapters. In addition to using our knowledge as a resource, chapter leaders who are seeking to grow to connect their own membership can build off of others' successes.

As West Quadrant Director, an important role for me is to unite and engage chapters across the region to learn and grow from one another. Chapters who are struggling with membership should know they are not alone. In addition, they should use fellow chapters as resources, learning from those who have success and helping those who need it – leaders helping leaders. AIAS is a collaborate effort. I propose using platforms that activate this collaboration, including social media and virtual meetings. We live in the digital age, and vital information can be shared easily with one another. We just have to commit to this communication of information, and we must let our chapters understand that the AIAS community is always there, no matter how far our membership expands around the world.

4. An area that I believe is an untapped opportunity is outreach and collaboration with other college disciplines. With AIAS being a powerful national organization, our membership should be collaborating with other student programs within university settings. Local Freedom By Design programs can team up with students studying engineering, landscape architecture, art, planning, and many more disciplines. Chapters can coordinate with business schools to learn how to better market, fundraise, and budget. AIAS and the allied arts colleges can host events that help to highlight architecture and art. Imagine the networking possibilities! I believe that we should not have to rely on architecture school's determining whom we coordinate with for certain studios. AIAS should be able to facilitate programs that are actively engaging and multi-disciplinary.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS
1735 New York Ave., Washington, DC 20006
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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS

In July 1993, the AIAS Board of Directors adopted a "Public Policy on Uncompensated Interns." The policy has been subsequently reviewed and reaffirmed by the Board and reads as follows:

The AIAS maintains that employers must properly compensate all employees. Compensation must be in compliance with the regulations for the jurisdiction in which they are working.

In 2010, AIAS crafted a public statement on intern compensation in conjunction with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the American Institute of Architects, which reads as follows:

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Institute of Architecture Students recognize that architects are bound by law and ethics to pay interns, and strongly advocate for the appropriate compensation of architectural students and interns. Because of current economic transformations, some architects have both solicited and accepted the services and labor of interns without pay. We strongly urge architectural firms and other for-profit employers to respect the law and comply with the ethical standards of our profession, and we strongly encourage interns to refuse to accept employment without pay, and to notify the Department of Labor in cases where employers propose such an arrangement. For more information on labor laws and professional ethics, please see the AIA Code of Ethics and the U.S. Labor Department standards under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The ACSA, AIA, and AIAS further support architects, students, and recent graduate doing pro-bono work. We recognize the distinction between unpaid work for profit-making employers, and unpaid work for non-profit organizations, communities in need, and volunteer activities, which allows participants to determine their own hours and degree of involvement. The AIA has established guidelines for service that are provided on a Pro Bono basis. They can be found under the member section of the AIA website.

POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS AFFIRMATION

As a way of confirming that the AIAS is not promoting or being promoted by architects employing unpaid interns, we ask that each participant in an official AIAS function review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation in our event and thank you for your support of our position against unpaid internships. This position is supported as well by the Board of Directors of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Name: CAITLIN KESSLER

I do hereby affirm that I understand and support the AIAS policy on the compensation for interns. If I employ interns, I further affirm that I do not use unpaid architectural interns in my professional practice when applicable by federal wage and hour laws.

Signature: Caithlin Kessler

Date: 11.20.2016



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS

Elections are a critical step by which the American Institute of Architecture Students is governed. Annual elections, as outlined in the Bylaws and the Rules of the Board, ensure that the membership of the organization participates in the selection of the best candidates to serve on the national Board of Directors.

Individuals elected to the Board of Directors represent the membership and ensure the continued success of the organization. Therefore, participants who are involved in the elections process, including candidates, Board members and elections committee members, are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and good judgment.

Confidentiality is required of all participants in the elections process. Participants should not discuss details of the elections process to the general membership before, during or after FORUM. Elections information that is considered public knowledge, and therefore can be shared with the membership, occurs during the General Business Sessions and at the General Assemblies.

Campaigning is strictly prohibited prior to FORUM. Conversation between chapters regarding candidates should not take place. Campaigning will only begin at the first General Assembly of FORUM.

Campaigning during FORUM shall be professional. Candidates and candidate support groups should be respectful in their campaigning efforts. Disrespectful campaigning will be a violation of the Elections Code of Ethics, and will be grounds for immediate review by the Elections Committee.

Campaigning materials should follow the Election Guidelines, and should be distributed in appropriate venues only. Appropriate venues include FORUM General Business Sessions, General Assemblies, and Quad Breakouts.

As leaders of this organization, and future leaders of this profession, we must uphold the highest ethical practice. Questionable behavior during elections will not be tolerated. Any concerns should be immediately raised with the Elections Chair.

ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS AFFIRMATION

To promote the highest level of professionalism during elections, we ask that each participant in the elections process review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation and thank you for your support and dedication to the organization.

Name: CAITLIN KESSLER

I do hereby affirm that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the AIAS Elections Code of Ethics and the Elections Guidelines.

Signature: Caitlin Kessler

Date: 11.20.2016

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



AIAS

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**AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS
CANDIDATE CONTACT INFORMATION FORM**

Candidate contact information will only be used by the Elections Committee to communicate elections-related information. If provided, social media handles will be shared when candidates are posted publicly on AIAS website and social media.

Name (as preferred): CAITLIN KESSLER

Chapter: UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Email Address: cjk2012@email.arizona.edu

Mobile Phone Number: 480.313.1530

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: CAITLIN KESSLER // AIAS ARIZONA
- Twitter: @
- Instagram: runninglatecait // aiasarizona
- Other:



CAITLIN KESSLER

WEST QUAD
DIRECTOR