



Scott Cornelius

**2021-2022 aias national president
candidacy packet**

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LETTER OF INTENT

To Sarah Curry, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, NOMA

Dear Past President/Elections Chair Curry,

Wow. Here we are. You and I have known each other for a while now and worked together on various projects and efforts, so you know I'm not really one for an excess of formality or forestalling the point. I am writing to you to declare my intent to run for the office of 2021-2022 President of the American Institute of Architecture Students.

I am shocked to look around me and see how much time has passed, to see where I am and what I'm about to do. I'm surprised the time for this is finally here, but I can't say that I've never thought about this moment before. In the fall of 2016 when I attended my first AIAS meeting at Oklahoma State University and learned what this organization was, what it stood for and the kind of things it was accomplishing, unbidden to my mind came my path from freshman member to National President. That path has not gone the way I originally imagined it, there have been many times I've considered abandoning it and I know that the reasons I started on it are much different from the reasons I am where I am today, but all the turbulence and change of my journey makes me even more grateful to be here.

I had to dedicate a paragraph to the past; it's important. Now to look forward... you and I both know the state the world is in right now, and it's because of where we are that I'm humbled by – and yes, anxious about – the tasks and decisions ahead of us. We are the American Institute of Architecture Students and our first duty is to improve the education and profession of architecture, but we cannot forget the fact that this is an incredible and rare group of leaders, designers, advocates and incredibly generous people. People like that have a duty to work toward the betterment not only of their world, but of the world – and I believe that with the right steps the AIAS can be an incredible vehicle for that change. I can't wait to get started!

Thank you so much for your mentorship, friendship and ceaseless dedication to all of us.



Scott Cornelius, AIAS



education

Bachelor of Architecture
minor in architectural history & theory
expected: May 2021
Oklahoma State University

experience

Mass Architects, Inc.
summer 2020
intern architect: drawing creation and correction, 3D modeling, specifications, etc.
independent contractor: preliminary design and rendering

Hornbeek-Blatt Architects
summer 2019
intern architect: preliminary design, drawing creation and correction, 3D modeling, Revit sun studies, specifications, etc.

Dekker/Perich/Sabatini
summer 2018 & 2017
intern architect: preliminary design, SketchUp modeling, redlining, office management, etc.

CEAT Summer Bridge Program
summer 2019 & 2018
head counselor, counselor: leading and training 20 counselors, leading three-week program for 100 engineering students

Discover Architecture
summer 2019 & 2018
head counselor: leading & living with 24 high school students in week-long summer program

OSU School of Architecture
fall 2018 - present
research assistant: publication creation, research

OSU College of Engineering, Architecture & Technology
spring 2019 - present
ambassador: prospective student tours, events and presentations

leadership

American Institute of Architecture Students
south quadrant director
2020-2021
learning & teaching culture policy project chair
2019-2020
president
2019-2020
resiliency task force member
2018-2019
vice president
2018-2019
social chair
2017-2018

Construction Specifications Institute
president
2018-2019
college of fellows meeting keynote speaker
2018
ceat student council liaison
2017-2018

Architecture Leadership Council
member
fall 2017 - present

Architecture Students Teaching Elementary Kids
classroom leader & teacher
fall 2017 - fall 2019

honors and awards

Outstanding Mentor Award
Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence
2018 & 2020

McKnight Leadership Scholarship
OSU McKnight Foundation
2016-present





November 19, 2020

To the National AIAS Board of Directors,

I wholeheartedly support the candidacy of Scott Cornelius for the AIAS National President position. Scott is currently a fifth year student in Oklahoma State University's five year Bachelor of Architecture program, where he has distinguished himself in his time with our program. His involvement in student activities and events is well known; he has served as the President of our local chapter and has been involved with AIAS since his freshman year. If any event is happening at the School, Scott will be there. Currently, Scott is the South Quad Director where he has invested great energy in issues that impact architecture students across our region.

Scott is trustworthy, energetic, and most importantly engaged with his peers and the culture of school. Whatever is needed, Scott is ready to get to work to make it happen. Scott is a student I have often found in my office, bringing me a great idea. I have twice hired Scott to work as a counselor in my summer program for high school students, and I employed him to be a Teaching Assistant for an ARCH course, both are positions that require a proven track record of reliability. Most recently, I charged my School of Architecture Leadership Council (which includes AIAS representatives) to revise our Studio Culture Statement, which had not been reviewed in several years. Scott volunteered for the job, and working with others, he held 'town hall' sessions with students to gather input, and then presented drafts to our faculty for discussion. The new 'OSU Learning and Teaching Culture Policy' was approved by both the student leadership and the faculty, a monumental task. Based on that experience, he volunteered to serve on the national AIAS committee to help develop the national AIAS 'Learning and Teaching Culture Policy' guidelines for schools of architecture. He was also elected South Quad Director for the AIAS, which further engaged him with the national body of architecture students from across the US.

Most importantly however, Scott pursues excellence in his academic endeavors. Just this semester, two of his design competition endeavors have received recognition - first, in the AIA Central States Regional Student Design Competition, Scott's team placed second of twelve teams in a 12 hour design challenge. Also, his team's submission for an urban chair was recognized as a 'Top 25' entry in the international *archasm* design competition. Scott is a member of the University Honors College and takes unique and advanced classes above and beyond his required core of Architecture classes. Scott is a great example of a serious student who seeks enrichment for himself while creating opportunities for others.

In conclusion, I reiterate my support of Scott Cornelius' candidacy for the most important national AIAS officer position available. He will not disappoint the organization.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bilbeisi, AIA
Professor and Head of the School of Architecture

To the AIAS Board of directors,

I am so overwhelmed with joy to be writing this letter in support of Scott Cornelius for the 2021-2022 AIAS National President. I have had the pleasure of knowing Scott for my entire time at Oklahoma State University, and in that time he has become one of the most important people within our school. Not because of his former position as president or current one of South Quad Director, but because of his love and passion for every single student within our program. The tireless dedication that Scott shows towards the future of architecture is unmatched by anyone our chapter has known.

Scott's leadership began in one of the most difficult and time consuming positions- social chair. As a second year student, Scott was in charge of planning and executing every single one of our social events for the year (30+). This one instance is the perfect representation of the unimaginable amount of drive that Scott has. For the next 4 years, he continued to work 30-50 hour weeks to ensure that the AIAS was becoming the best and most inclusive organization that it could be. Creating spaces that welcome all students and using the influence of the AIAS to generate a more positive studio culture. He then led the initiative for rewriting our school's learning and teaching culture policy and he has taken this to the national level and is teaching others how to do the same, and how to learn from his own mistakes.

As Scott currently sits in the position of past president in addition to South Quad Director, he is there to support me as president in a lot of ways. One of my fears as president was that I would not live up to his incredible legacy and I was afraid to come to him with concerns or mistakes. However, I quickly learned what being a leader truly looks like when learning from him in this matter. He allowed me to take charge, he respected my ideas, and he gave me the support I needed, even if it involved changing a decision that was made during his own presidency. It is rare to find leaders who are comfortable with change in this regard and admitting to their mistakes or missteps. He is continually trying to grow and learn from those around him, which in turn makes him one of the most incredible leaders within the AIAS at Oklahoma State, in the south quad, and on the national level.

Scott is running for national president because of his remarkable devotion to the students that make up the AIAS. As a chapter we could not be more happy to stand behind him in this endeavor. We have been so fortunate to work with Scott over the last five years and we cannot begin to summarize the work he has done for this chapter, and everything that he is yet to do as national president.

Sincerely,

Julia Mauk,
Oklahoma State AIAS President
South Quad Conf. Co-Chair



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Describe your origin story as a student leader. *What prompted you to get involved? What advice would you give others who have yet to realize their potential for leadership?*

I have been involved in “student leadership” since I was in high school – yes, I was a student council kid. Don’t judge me too harshly. Back then I was a leader because I wanted to be, because I pushed myself to be and because I liked it. To me my true student leadership journey began at the end of my freshman year at Oklahoma State when the president of the AIAS chapter, Kelly Brown, came up to me and told me I would be a good Social Chair. I had never had someone walk up to me and so specifically name a leadership position they thought I would do well in, and that made a lot of difference. The following December I attended my first FORUM Conference in Austin and that, of course, was where I fell in love with the AIAS. Because of that shoulder-tap my leadership priorities completely changed so that instead of leading for myself I was leading for an idea, for an organization. Since then I have led in other organizations and efforts as well, but I owe my leadership transformation and where I am today to the AIAS and the amazing people I have met through it.

2. Describe your leadership style. Explain how previous experiences working with teams have helped you discover your leadership style.

My leadership style has changed dramatically through, and largely because of, my AIAS journey. Early on, as anyone who worked with me back then can attest to, I was the micro-managing, I’ll-do-it-myself, need-to-know-basis type of leader. I won’t pretend that this style of leadership can’t be effective in some situations, but as time went on and as the teams I was working with widened and diversified I began to realize that had just as much to contribute as I did, no matter their position or office. What I would call my most basic leadership tenet, therefore, is honesty. Our society has begun to learn over the past few decades that innovation and creativity is born not only of necessity, but of diversity. Contributions from groups of people with diverse backgrounds, thought processes, interests and beliefs enable us to make creative solutions that benefit more than just one group. One thing that many leaders have yet to learn is that diverse groups are most effective only when they know all the facts and when they are communicated with openly and honestly. If I’m elected I know that there will be issues I’m not able to solve, and I know that to make it through those times I will need to communicate with honesty and vulnerability. Intentional vulnerability is a trait I have only recently begun to introduce into my leadership philosophy, and I believe that is one of the greatest lessons I’ve learned on my leadership journey. Confidence can create a leader, but the ability to balance that confidence with vulnerability and openness is what creates a great leader.

3. In recent years, the AIAS has increased its efforts in advocacy for architecture students on issues including but not limited to health and wellness, equity, student loan debt, learning and teaching culture, practice experience, leadership, and technology. **What one issue do you personally find the most important?** How would you make progress on this issue as an elected leader on the AIAS National Board of Directors?

Anyone who knows me or has ever heard me speak publicly will probably predict that my answer to this question is learning and teaching culture. For a few years now much of my focus has been on cultural issues within our organization, education, profession and world, and how we at the AIAS can be working to fix those problems. Before I volunteered to rewrite the Studio Culture Statement at the Oklahoma State School of Architecture, thereby discovering what “studio culture” was and why it mattered, most of my leadership and changemaking efforts were focused on more surface-level, policy change type initiatives. I still believe that these types of change are important and necessary, but as I dove into research on studio culture I began to believe that cultural change was directed more at the root of the issues we deal with. Cultural change is a powerful, difficult and very slow process, but my belief in that process is the reason I have dedicated a large portion of my last two years of efforts to these subjects. Now I find my focus shifting again. I still believe in the power of cultural change, but I’m shifting to the belief that the true roots of the issues we are dealing with are in education.

The AIAS has the passion, energy, connections and influence to spark the changes in architectural education and beyond that are necessary. One way or another all architecture students are familiar with the deficiencies in our educational system, whether those are cultural, systemic or curricular, and the next step we need to take is to harness that influence to make real change. This may be a turbulent time we’re living for, but it’s important to keep in mind that this chaos and uncertainty has made it more possible than ever before to change our institutions and traditions. The turmoil our world is going through right now will be all the worse if we come out of it on the other side and operate the same ways we did before.

4. The AIAS has over 250 chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size from just a few students to hundreds. How would you use your position on the Board to better connect and engage our geographically and culturally diverse membership? What resources would you propose to better serve Chapter leaders seeking to grow their chapters and connect to other students around the world?

The diversity and openness of the AIAS is one of our greatest assets. Over the past few years our organization has taken great steps in creating resources and opportunities for non-traditional chapters and international chapters, especially through the work of the Council of Global Representatives. There is still much work to be done in these areas – the number of resources and connections available to the typical chapter is still far greater than those available to our international chapters, high school chapters and AIAS alumni. Over the coming year we will need to work hard to ensure ease of access to our existing programming for all members and to begin new efforts which focus on international and atypical chapters.

From international conferences to translation of documents we need to ensure that every effort by the AIAS is not just for American college students, but for all students of architecture.

Recently our country has been facing immense challenges of systemic racism, intolerance and bigotry more directly and on a scale that hasn't been seen in a long time. The youth and culture of acceptance at the AIAS gives us an incredibly unique opportunity to lead the charge against these issues into the future, but to do so we need to take a more involved and direct role in these conversations. Advocacy is one of the things the AIAS has the most potential for, but I believe we have only started to scratch the surface of what we can do to help make the change that is needed. Both inside and outside our organization we need to be constantly fighting for those who are less privileged or who lack the access and benefits that others inherently possess. The profession and education of architecture is systemically racist and has been for a long time. To truly represent the diversity of our chapters and membership the effort to change that has to start with us.

5. Describe how you intend to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of your chosen position on the Board. Elaborate on your intended communication/action plan and the primary goals you have for your one-year term.

The National President of the AIAS serves the organization in a host of different ways, and each effort requires different skills and focuses. At the AIAS we talk a lot about the President being the "outward-facing" officer while the Vice President is "inward-facing," meaning that the President is focused on the larger goals and movements of the organization as well as our relationships to other organizations and the world of architecture in general, while the Vice President works more closely with individual chapters and members to ensure the smooth running of the organization on a day-to-day basis. I am excited for the opportunities and challenges the role of President presents; the duties of the office require that the President is in constant communication with people both inside and outside of our organization, keeping up and dealing with multiple situations and issues as they unfold and, most importantly, advocating for students on every available platform. While much will change over the coming year, those facts will not.

My action plan for the year is radical and a little uncomfortable for someone like me, who has loved the AIAS the way it is for a few years now. These plans are also necessary to ensure the effectiveness and resiliency of our organization, and to ensure that architecture students don't lose one of their greatest advocates, the AIAS. The past year has already made significant changes to the way that we operate. The coming year will be the time to go back to the most basic core of what the AIAS is, then look at the programs, events, resources and connections we have been creating and reevaluate what the most effective way to accomplish our vision – empowering voices, ideas, and actions for the future – and our mission – advancing leadership, design, and service among architecture students. This process will bring about radical change to the way we operate, what we create and how we relate to the education and profession we

serve. That's a scary thing to promise, and in the interest of intentional vulnerability (see question 2) I won't hesitate to say that I'm anxious about it. What I am sure of is that change is necessary. I believe as much as anyone, and I hope we all believe this, that the AIAS has the power to make incredible change in the world around us – but in order to truly effect that change we need to take a hard look at ourselves and our efforts, ask tough questions, then move forward.

6. We all love the AIAS for different reasons, but it takes a critical and constructive analysis of the institutions we appreciate most to continue to evolve them into entities that can support each new generation of membership. **What facet of the AIAS would you most enjoy innovating or improving to help the organization remain relevant to architecture and design students around the world?** What are your ideas for that kind of growth?

Wow, what a nice segue from my last answer! It's like this questionnaire is reading my mind. I sometimes forget how incredible an organization the AIAS really is – I spend a lot of my time working on AIAS efforts with AIAS people, so there are occasions I am too deep to recognize that this group of students is incredibly unique and effective in the work that they do. I don't just say that in the context of a vacuum, I can compare the AIAS to nearly any organization I've been a part of or worked with and see how incredible it is... I won't name names, of course. That said, there are things that need change, and they need to change now. Our organization is nearly 60 years old and has grown large and multi-faceted, with many programs and focuses. While the work we produce is incredible, it is my belief that as an international organization we are not functioning at the level or with the efficiency and decisiveness that we could. Our organization has many bylaws and rules that we need to follow; they allow us to stay the course and continue important work from year to year, something that is very difficult for student-run organizations. In my time at the AIAS, however, I have become aware of a certain bureaucracy at play. Like many organizations the AIAS has its own version of politics. As I wrote above, my experience as a leader has proven to me that honesty and openness are the best policies when leading a group of people as intelligent, dedicated and talented as the members of the AIAS, and I believe that the best course of action for the AIAS from here on is to adopt those policies from our deepest levels at the national office and on the Board of Directors to every student who asks what That Architecture Club is all about. Like many of you I'm frustrated with the dishonesty, agenda-pushing and games of our nation's politics as well as the politics of our schools and workplaces. I say all of this because the AIAS is different from those bodies and organizations; we're a family, and we always work together to build each other up and further our collective goals. For that reason I want to get the AIAS back on a course that is fundamentally different in a cultural sense from the other organizations and groups we are a part of every day. This is a tall order, but if I believe in anything I believe that this organization has the ability to change "the way things have always been done," as they like to say in our chosen profession, for the better.



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: Scott Cornelius

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: 

Date: 11/16/20



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 and Board 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 Past President.

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 Past President.

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: Scott Cornelius

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: 

Date: 11/16/20

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS CANDIDATE CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

Candidate contact information will only be used by the Past President 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): Scott Cornelius

Chapter: Oklahoma State University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): South Quad Director

Email Address: scotecornelius@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: 806-681-1870

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: Scott Cornelius
- o Twitter: @
- o Instagram: scotecornelius
- o Other: _____