

6.12.2025

John Finney
AIAS Truckee Meadows Chapter
Truckee Meadows Community College, Edison Campus
arch.club.tncc@gmail.com
408.402.1560
June 12, 2025

President Luther
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Ave NW
Washington, DC 20006
Email: president@aias.org

Dear President Luther,

I am submitting the following resolution for consideration at the 2025 AIAS Summer Council of Presidents Meeting, in accordance with the Call for Resolutions. The resolution proposes revising the AIAS Bylaws to adjust the chapter membership quantity standards for maintaining good standing and ensuring voting rights.

Motion: I move that the AIAS Bylaws be amended to revise the chapter membership quantity standards for maintaining good standing, such that the minimum membership requirement is reduced to the number of individuals necessary to fill the required chapter leadership positions (e.g., President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and any additional roles mandated by the AIAS Bylaws). Furthermore, chapters meeting this revised minimum membership threshold and paying all required individual and chapter dues shall be granted full voting rights at the Council of Presidents, regardless of additional membership size metrics.

Rationale: The current AIAS chapter membership quantity standards impose arbitrary numerical requirements without any provided rationale or evidence justifying their necessity, placing undue pressure on smaller architectural programs to prioritize recruitment over developing effective, high-quality programs. This is particularly burdensome for institutions with limited student populations, diverting resources from fostering meaningful engagement and professional development. AIAS National has not established a monetary metric demonstrating a break-even point for expenses related to servicing chapters, further underscoring the lack of reasoning behind these standards. Denying voting rights to chapters that pay dues but fall short of these arbitrary thresholds creates an inequitable situation akin to "taxation without representation," unlike the AIA, which does not impose similar membership size requirements for component voting rights. Alternative methods to incentivize chapter growth, such as recognition programs or resource support, should be explored rather than penalizing smaller chapters by stripping their voting voice while still requiring dues.

Please let me know if you require additional information or clarification regarding this proposal. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this resolution at the Summer Council of Presidents Meeting on August 3, 2025. Thank you for your consideration.

6.12.2025

Sincerely,
John Finney
President, AIAS Truckee Meadows Chapter
Truckee Meadows Community College

John Finney
AIAS Truckee Meadows Chapter
Truckee Meadows Community College, Edison Campus
arch.club.tncc@gmail.com
408.402.1560
July 11, 2025

President Luther
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Ave NW
Washington, DC 20006
Email: president@aias.org

Dear President Luther,

Following the publication of resolutions on July 11, 2025, and in accordance with the Call for Resolutions, I am submitting the following amendment to my original resolution proposing revisions to the AIAS chapter membership quantity standards. This amendment modifies the motion to direct the Membership Committee to investigate alternative structures for determining "good standing" status and voting privileges for chapters, based on recent discussions with you and the AIAS Vice President. It includes a proposed structure for the Committee to evaluate, emphasizing a simple weighted system to preserve all chapters' voices while incentivizing growth, with options for future expansions to promote broader participation, and adjusts the reporting timeline to allow bylaw modifications to take effect the following year.

Motion for Amendment: I move to amend the resolution by striking the original motion and substituting the following: "I move that the AIAS Membership Committee be directed to evaluate and propose alternative structures for chapter 'good standing' status and voting privileges, including but not limited to preserving voting rights for all dues-paying chapters with a weighted system where each chapter receives a base vote worth 1 point for existence and meeting required leadership positions, plus an additional point (totaling 2 points) for achieving membership size goals (verifiable via existing infrastructure on chapter renewal forms certified by advisors or deans); and exploring further points in the future for participation in AIAS programs/events (e.g., Freedom by Design, national/regional conferences, or committee roles) to incentivize national and local community engagement—ensuring no chapter's voice is silenced while fostering sustainable growth. The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors and Council of Presidents by the next Grassroots Leadership Conference or FORUM, timed to allow any resulting bylaw modifications to take effect in the following year."

Rationale: In response to feedback from the AIAS President and Vice President regarding the history of "good standing" rules aimed at democratic representation—where larger schools should have larger chapters and smaller schools smaller ones—this rationale itself is not truly democratic if it silences the voices of smaller members, as democracy requires everyone to have a voice in governance, not just those meeting arbitrary participation levels without logical rationale. Restricting smaller chapters' votes creates inequities akin to "taxation without

representation" and hinders sustainable growth, forcing a "chicken-or-egg" choice between recruiting inactive members or building attractive programs. Modeling after bicameral systems in federations like the United States (equal Senate seats for states, population-based House seats), Argentina, Australia, Brazil, and South Africa (upper houses with equal regional representation, lower houses scaled by population), a simple weighted voting system preserves every dues-paying chapter's voice with a base 1 point for existence, while adding 1 point for membership goals to encourage engagement without arbitrary thresholds—e.g., a small chapter gets 1 point, but one meeting goals gets 2. This minimizes administrative burden using existing renewal forms, promotes overall AIAS growth at chapter and national levels, and allows future expansions to activity points for broader participation. The extended reporting timeline ensures thoughtful implementation, with bylaw changes effective the following year. This aligns with AIAS goals of inclusivity and quality membership.

Please let me know if you require additional information or clarification regarding this amendment. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss it at the Summer Council of Presidents Meeting on August 3, 2025. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
John Finney

President, AIAS Truckee Meadows Chapter
Truckee Meadows Community College