

Zachary Dunn

M. Arch Candidate, Texas A&M
AIAS Vice President Candidate
Forum Texas Chair

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Letter of Intent

November 24th, 2017

Sarah Wahlgren, Assoc. AIA
Chair of the Elections Committee
American Institute of Architectural Students
1735 New Your Ave. Washington, DC 20006

Dear Sarah Wahlgren,

My name is Zachary Ryan Dunn and I intend to run for AIAS Vice President on the National Board of Directors.

Although I am still quite new to AIAS, I have deeply cherished the relationships that I have made through the organization. It doesn't take long to see the strength of AIAS. That strength of course lies within the thousands of student leaders that comprise AIAS. This student voice is the heart and soul of AIAS. After seeing so many talented leaders make a difference through AIAS, I was compelled to get involved beyond my chapter.

In the summer of 2016 I was selected as chair for FORUM Texas. This responsibility requires taking the conference from start to finish, both creatively and in terms of execution. This includes, but is not limited to, programming, marketing, logistics, sponsorship, and local collaboration. The team sought out to tear down FORUM to its essence and provide the best product possible for AIAS members. We are delighted with the changes we have been able to make to the conference. Additionally, we've been able to put together some stellar programming for all to enjoy. So much time has gone into this conference over the past two or so years. However, knowing that we'd be able to share this conference with our fellow AIAS members has kept us going, and made this experience completely worthwhile.

AIAS is the glue that hold architectural education together. I believe it should be a part of everyone's architectural education. I wish to continue this belief and make this a possibility for all architecture students. Given my prior leadership experience and involvement with AIAS, I believe that I would be a sound fit for the National Board of Directors. I would be honored to have a seat at the table as your 2018 National Vice President.

Respectfully Yours,



Zachary Ryan Dunn

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Profile

I am 2nd year Masters of Architecture Candidate and Texas A&M University. While I do currently study architecture, I actually spent the majority of my undergraduate career as a computer science student.

I also have been involved with several leadership positions outside of AIAS. I believe this interdisciplinary background helps me tackle problems in a more innovative and effective manner. The more diverse your experiences are the better input you'll be able to provide.

I'm currently the chair of FORUM Texas. My previous leadership experiences have been a great benefit in allowing my to evaluate FORUM against other conferences. I believe this has given FORUM Texas a fresh coat of paint for a much cleaner end product. All-in-all me and my team have updated FORUM for a better overall conference experience

I am running for Vice President of AIAS.

Awards + Successes

2017 - 2018

Southerland Aggie Leadership Award
Romieniec Graduate Travel Fellowship
Sam W & Mary Richards Martin Scholarship
George M & Mary B Lewis Merit Scholarship
3D International Scholarship
History Maker Homes Endowed Scholarship

2016 - 2017

Gensler Aggies Scholarship
TAMU Build Day Winner

2015 - 2016

2016 TAMU Build Day Winner

2014 - 2015

2015 Buck Weirus Spirit Award
2015 Design + Build of a Tiny House

2013 - 2014

MSC Reynolds Award + Scholarship

2011 - 2012

MSC First Year Involvement Award

Education

Texas A&M University

2016 - 2018 | Masters of Architecture Candidate | GPR: 3.611
Sustainable Urbanism Certificate
Historic Preservation Certificate

2015 - 2016 | Architecture Career Change Program

2011 - 2015 | B.S. University Studies in Architecture | GPR: 3.388
Minor in Computer Science

Involvement

2015 - 2018 AIAS: FORUM Texas Chair

- Head student planner of a five person team for the annual 700 person AIAS conference (Hosted in Austin, TX in December 2017)
- Coordinated 60+ pieces of unique programming with over a six day period in collaboration with the programming and site directors
- Curated the marketing plan and image for the conference in collaboration with the rest of the FORUM Texas Team
- Added several new programming items, such as "meetups"

2014 - 2016 MSC Town Hall

- Helped curate media content and staff shows for events like Kevin Hart, 21 Pilots, and the 12th Jam Music Festival
- Created and maintained organization website

2016 MSC Voices

- Participated with a semester-long task force to create anti-discrimination programming, including spoken word performance art and a campus-leader panel

2014 - 2016 FLAC: Executive Director

- Led a committee of 16 organizations with diverse focuses, over 200 staff members, and nearly 1000 total members
- Improved 'FLOverlap,' the program in which over 4,000 applicants utilize each year for FLO recruitment

2014 - 2015 MSC VP of Lead., Development, and Service PC

- Oversaw the complete week to week programming of seven organizations with a combined total of more than 400 members
- Worked with MSC executives to oversee the allocation of the \$3,000 PEF and the \$400,000 Reserve Fund
- Established new precedents, expectations, and policies in the LD&S programming council to foster critical discussion and better programs

Employment

2017 -2018 Department of Architecture TA: ENDS 101

- Grade assignments and staff office hours for 45 students of a 180 person class

2016 Department of Architecture TA: ENDS 101 (Summer)

- Graded assignments and staff office hours for a 140 person class
- Assisted with presentations, discussions, as well various other tasks required by the professor

November 24, 2017

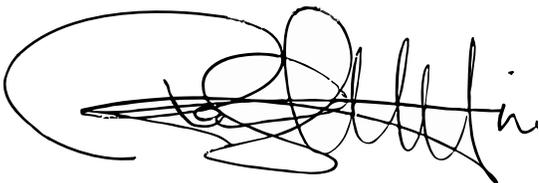
Dear Committee Members:

In my 48 years of being the faculty advisor of AIAS, I can easily say that Zachary Dunn epitomizes the essence of a true interdisciplinary leader. Not only is Zachary the 2017 AIAS FORUM Texas Chair but has been over the years has exhibited leadership across our campus in various Memorial Student Center committees. He was Executive Director of FLAC of over 1,000 members, MSC VP of Lead., Development, and Service PC, Chair of MSC Freshman Leadership International and the VP of Circle K International chapter at Texas A&M University. Over the years I have pushed for the AIAS members to reach outside their major and embrace clubs and leadership responsibilities in interdisciplinary and international forums. Zachary is the poster boy for challenging the conventions and status quo to bring new ideas that elevate each organization to a new level.

Out of a campus of 60,000 students, Zachary was one of 55 students to receive the Buck Weirus Spirit Award for leadership, which is the highest award given to a student. He is the only architecture student to receive this award. He also received the coveted MSC Reynolds Award and a scholarship for his leadership role in various student organizations on campus. Zachary was the only architecture student to receive the award.

Zachary is a master of design thinking by applying critical thinking and creative skills to every organization opening up new skill sets and visions to make for a unique future. He becomes a positive force to open up communication within an organization and transforms it in a stellar way. As you may have seen, he has approached his FORUM Texas role in the same manner. He is pushing FORUM to reinvent itself in many ways, but most notably by bringing the focus back to a forum of discussion rather than just a lecture-based conference.

Zachary has been the best graduate Teaching Assistant I have had the pleasure to work with and he easily worked with 150 students from almost every major on campus and their interdisciplinary groups.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rodney Hill', with a large, sweeping flourish on the left side.

Rodney Culver Hill, FAIA

Presidential Professor
Piper Professor for Teaching Excellence
ING Professor of Excellence
Harold L. Adams Interdisciplinary Professorship in Architecture Department of Architecture
Department of Humanities & Medicine Health Science Center Langford A #103
3137 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-3137
Tel. 979.845.1015 Fax. 979.862.1571
<http://dept.arch.tamu.edu/architecture>

Responses to 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 was fortunate to have an architect as one of my elementary school teachers. So at an early age, the seed was planted. Although after the 2008 recession, I changed lanes to pursue software engineering. While lumbering away in computer science for several years, I finally decided to take the plunge: I was going to study architecture. It took a year of transition, and another year of a 'Career Change' program, but the journey has been completely worthwhile.

While I've had many leadership opportunities outside of architecture, AIAS immediately stole my focus. To this point I had never been able to marry my love for getting involved with my love for architecture. My first FORUM happened to be San Francisco in 2015. Once I learned that FORUM was coming to Texas in two years time, I knew that I had to had to represent my hometown and state to the best of my ability.

In terms of advice, do something you love. There's leadership opportunities in every corner of the planet, and even within organizations. Life is too short and too hard to willfully do something you don't love. In time leadership helps us grow, find new opportunities, and create lifelong bonds. This shared passion of leadership is what guides many of my friendships today. As always, you get out what you put in.

2. In recent years, the AIAS has increased its efforts in advocacy for architecture students on issues including but not limited to student loan debt, studio culture, intern development, leadership, technology, and diversity. 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?

Each of these topics are incredibly important. For a profession that sees less monetary gains as its peer professional programmes, there needs to be some sort of relief for student debt. The progression away from the "intern" title has started to pick up steam, but there is still plenty of room for discussion on what the future holds in this regard. AIAS and students are extremely technologically savvy, but the profession has been historically slow to adapt to new technologies. The conversation about equity is also more active than ever, and still as relevant. However, I'd like to continue to focus on studio culture. AIAS has made great headway in this regard and I'd like to continue the conversation.

There are obviously a lot of poor habits in the studio space. These create an environment for poor health, but they also create an unrealistic work habit. This makes the transition into the profession even harder than it is. Sadly, we still have several professors pushing for this style of studio.

I see my current department struggling with the contrast between generations. Studio habits are extremely different from what they used to be, computers have change the studio space. This gives great flexibility for those with families or work, but takes away for the collaborative culture that once used to be a centerpiece of architecture. Both viewpoints have their merits, and make it a worthwhile discussion.

This conversation starts with AIAS chapters, and their departments. Instead of just mentioning studio culture, we need it to be a constant topic of discussion. How can AIAS chapters and departments work together for a healthier future? How can we create, in turn, a healthier profession? We can center these discussions around events, dialogues, etc... but it has to promoted in a way where it can be broken down. Studio culture is complex and ever changing so we have to stay on top of it if we want to improve it.

3. The AIAS has over 160 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?

Technology is still the way to go here. Although it is still not as good as an in-person conversation, technology allows us to bridge distance with convenience.

Tying into the previous question, it's about having more designated conversations about the issues we face as architecture students; as well as the issues we'll be facing our first years in the profession.

AIAS can help us prepare for the profession, but it also function as a rallying post for advocacy. While these conversations are happening, it would be great to have them continue beyond our conferences. Often conversations about equity and studio culture feel as if they are put on a shelf until the next conference rolls around. This needs to be a constant dialogue, even if we cannot have this conversation in person. The larger conversation is, the richer the dialogue will be, and the more powerful the voice of AIAS will be as well.

We also need to connect these conversations globally. Without a doubt this can be an awkward step, but in our day and age language is no longer a sufficient excuse not to connect. Architecture is a global profession and we can begin this global conversation at the student level as well.

4. Describe one area in which you see an untapped opportunity for the AIAS to engage in a new way. Either with other organizations, with school faculty and administrators, with the profession, with the international design community, or any other audience or venue.

Architecture is often seen as an interdisciplinary profession. However, with a few exceptions, this experience is limited to the academic world. As someone who strongly values interdisciplinary collaboration, I would love to see a stronger relationship between AIAS and other fields of study.

Within the United States I'd love to collaborate more frequently with the AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Arts), ASID (American Society of Interior Designers), APA (American planning Association), and ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects). Architecture shares bandwidth with each and every one of the organizations. I've strongly benefited from my collaborative experiences with landscape architecture and planning students in the College of Architecture at Texas A&M.

There's a lot of potential for involvement, but competitions could be the first place to start. Conferences would also be a great place to collaborate. Of course, these partnerships could also extend beyond just American organizations and have more of a global focus.

**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: Zachary Ryan Dunn

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: November 24th, 2017



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: Zachary Ryan Dunn

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: November 24th, 2017

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 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): Zachary Ryan Dunn

Chapter: Texas A&M University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): N/A

Email Address: zachrdunn@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: 512-924-8448

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: /zachrdunn
- Twitter: @ N/A
- Instagram: zachrdunn
- Other: zachrdunn (snap)



Zachary Dunn

VP Candidate

