

NATHAN A. FEHRS, AIAS

2022 – 2023 NORTHEAST QUADRANT DIRECTOR

CANDIDACY PACKET

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LETTER OF INTENT

NATHAN A. FEHRS, AIAS - 2022-2023 Northeast Quadrant Director

November 15th, 2021

Erin Conti, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, NOMA **Elections Chair and Past President** American Institute of Architecture Students 1735 New York Ave. Washington D.C. 20006

Dear Past President Conti,

I am sending you this letter to formally declare my intent to run for the position of the 2022 - 2023 American Institute of Architecture Students Northeast Quadrant Director.

My freshman year was nothing short of new experiences, from moving into an educational studio environment to learning twenty-five ways to cook ramen, but my most vivid memory is the feeling of inspiration I felt while attending my first FORUM in Seattle. I had been persuaded by the current members of our local chapter that FORUM is something you did not want to miss. So, I somehow convinced my parents to let me go and I had no idea that this conference would change the rest of my academic path. I was amazed with the sense of community, from the first years bonding over a new experience to older years participating in the elections process to give back to an organization that had given them so much. I left feeling inspired to follow in the footsteps of other members who had made a difference.

When school started again in the spring, I got involved in any way possible. I became an active member, attending all the general assemblies, events, workshops, and was chosen to sit on the Beaux Arts Ball Planning Committee. While on the committee I got my introduction to AIAS meetings. I looked forward to our 8:00 pm Thursday meetings because solving problems as a group and organizing this event made me happy, and it was something I was good at. After seeing the pure enjoyment of the members who attended I knew that I was right for the job of Events Coordinator at our local chapter.

After being elected as our Events Coordinator I sat in on board meetings and helped see how our chapter was led. Over the following year I grew in my decision making and collaborating skills, and at the end of the term I felt ready to guide our chapter. My time as president of our chapter has given me the unique experiences of seeing how the Northeast Quadrant Director connects with chapters and helped me realize how important communication is and its power in moving chapters forward. If there is anything I have learned about the organizations I have been a part of is that the most important facet of an organization is the general member. This has been proven to me throughout the past three years in our election cycles, studio culture meetings, town halls, events, and lectures, but mostly in progress and vision. Without the general members needs being advocated for, we cannot move forward.

I am running for Northeast Quadrant Director to give back. Not just to the organization or Quad, but to give back to the membership. Everyone has something to offer, and everyone should be advocated for and listened to. I hope to influence members to not underestimate themselves, and to advocate for what they are passionate about. Given that we are rebounding from covid, my goal with this position is to create a stronger AIAS, and helping others remember we can push through anything through communication and tenacity.

I believe that given my experience on the national and chapter levels with leadership, advocacy, and a passion to do what is right, has built a perfect foundation for me to take over the duties and responsibilities of Northeast Quadrant Director. If elected, I will continue to provide top notch leadership that has come before me and continue to provide the resources and support the Northeast Quadrant deserves.

Thank you, Past President Conti, for taking the time to consider my candidacy, and leading our organization.

Nathan A. Fehrs, AIAS

1 REGENCY PLAZA APT. 501R - PROVIDENCE RI. 02903

nathan.fehrs@gmail.com

Instagram: @natefehrs

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY - BRISTOL. RI

Bachelor of Science in Architecture (to be obtained in 2022) Minor in Sustainability Studies

August 2018 - Present

CAPE FEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE - WILMINGTON, NC

Certificate in Architectural Technology

August 2016 - May 2018

PRATT INSTITUTE - BROOKLYN, NY

Summer Architecture Program

August 2017

AIAS NATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AND TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE

Advocate for the integration of sustainable technology into typical architectural education and practice.

September 2021 - Present

AIA RI BOARD OF DIRECTORS - STUDENT DIRECTORATE

Help support and govern the architects of Rhode Island

December 2020 to Present

AIAS RWU CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Govern and advance the chapter to help the membership get access to resources necessary to provide a smooth transition into the working world.

November 2020 - Present

AIAS RWU EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

November 2019 - November 2020

AIAS RWU BEAUX ARTS BALL PLANNING CHAIR

November 2019 - November 2020

AIAS RWU FRESHMAN MENTOR

August 2019 - May 2021

CIVITECTS - FALL RIVER, MA

Worked on government projects for the Commonwealth.

September 2020 - January 2021

BECKER MORGAN GROUP - WILMINGTON. NC

Contributed to all aspects of the design process: from field measuring to design documents.

Summers 2018, 2019

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SASH AWARD NOMINEE

2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

USFSA COMPETITIVE FIGURE SKATER - USA

2012 to 2018

2020

MANAGER AT WENDYS - WILMINGTON, NC

2015 to 2017

SERVER AT BLAKE'S TAVERN - PROVIDENCE, RI

September 2021 to Present

Lumion, AutoCAD, Revit, Sketchup, Rhino 6, Adobe Suits, hand drafting, Microsoft office, time management, collaboration, event planning, and fundraising.

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?

Ever since I was little, I wanted to be a leader. Part of the reason I chose the architecture profession is because I wanted to make a difference. I saw the wide gap between the upper class and the lower classes and felt that my ideas of design equality and advocacy would be able to help restore humanity to a capital obsessed society. Over the years this original dream slightly faded but returned once I started attending Roger Williams. I was prompted to get involved because I remember Shannon Defranza, our past Northeast Quadrant Director and now National Vice President, would come and stand at my desk, and would not leave until she convinced me to come to the General Assemblies. Her tenacity in getting underclassman involved was part of the reason I got involved. She is clearly passionate about this organization, so I should be too. I saw the sense of community that came with being a member. But I would say that my actual call to leadership on the chapter level was at FORUM Seattle, and later FORUM Toronto for the national level. The electricity of the prospective candidates was so inspiring, it brought me back to the younger Nathan who sought out to change the world through design.

I would tell other people that have yet to realize their potential for leadership to never give up and be true to oneself. These two pieces of advice may seem cliché, but they come from the heart. Throughout my studies I became very passionate about sustainability and hoped to elevate my knowledge and outreach of the topic, so in 2019 I applied to be on the Sustainability task force, and I did not make the cut. The same can be said for when I applied to be on the FORUM Planning team, twice. However — one's passion and love to make a difference is more than enough to carry you to your goal. This year I was chosen to be on the Sustainability and Technology Task Force, and after trying before my passion and drive are higher and I am more motivated to do my best. The latter piece of advice of being true to oneself can be looked at on multiple levels. I want to instill my important belief on remembering who you are. I've been asked a few times due to my sexual orientation "Do you have any regrets?", referring to being out in the south; and I do not have any regrets because the difficult times I experienced built me into the strong and independent person I am today. You are built on your experiences, it is very important to stick your neck out and take a chance, otherwise you aren't growing, and if you aren't growing then how can you be part of the positive change that we all envision?

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

My leadership style has evolved over the years — as my experience has provided me with different opportunities and challenges to try new approaches. There are two main philosophies I try to follow. 1) Always do things the right way, even if it is not the easy way. This was a lesson my dad spent many years trying to teach me. It was not until I was in a leadership role that I understood it. Taking the easy way out is the equivalent of throwing in the towel. This also implies that you have let the task at hand beat you. People take notice when small details are not forgotten — and a consistent work ethic will gain you trust. 2) Do not finish a job until it is complete — you may never actually accomplish what you set out to do, but you will grow enormously trying to get the job the done. When our membership numbers were declining due to covid-19 it was very hard to keep my head up and continue to push for membership and involvement. But the "stick-to-it-ness" has paid off because we are starting to see more involvement from the membership at RWU. I learned that I have a lot of faith in team members, because I know that we share the same vison, and all our perspectives and ideas helped rebuild our chapter.

My current leadership style is based on rigor, communication and self-evaluation. Those three pieces are a recipe that has kept AIAS RWU going, despite a pandemic. The structure of planning gives a team the ability to be consistent, being able to communicate concerns, dilemmas, and positive feedback helps a team understand everyone's working style and what they value in the group, and self-evaluation allows for the individual to reflect on what they have learned from the experience and how they can apply the lessons to the next challenge.

QUESTIONNAIRE

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?

First and foremost, I am an advocate for all these topics, especially practice experience. However current events have cast a light on how important sustainability practice and education are. A two-year long goal for sustainability practice has finally been achieved at AIAS RWU. We have initiated a Sustainability Committee for our chapter. The architecture building at RWU is the greatest polluter and contributor to waste on campus, and just like the architecture profession we should not be holding first place for contributing negatively to the environment. This committee founded under my term as president allows for the general membership to be involved and make decisions and advocate for their learning environment. My passion for sustainability landed me a spot on the AIAS National Sustainability and Technology Task Force, and here I plan to work collaboratively to spread information on how to craft a more sustainable future.

I think that outreach is a topic that always has been a big issue. How would I make progress on the issue of sustainability if elected? With a goal to reach as many members as possible, I would utilize multiple platforms to spread the information of sustainability. I would utilize the AIAS Northeast Instagram story to feature information or work made my other chapters in the area of sustainability. We all know that emails are something that our generation typically lets fall by the wayside, I do not plan to cut emails, but I wholeheartedly believe that Slack or Instagram will reach more members. Much like Visible Value Wednesday, I think that a Sustainable Saturday would be a great way to brand a weekly outreach on sustainable practices. To help with involvement, I think that sustainability questions, and fun quizzes on best practices on the Instagram story would be a great way to further member involvement.

AIAS has a lot of facets, and I care about all of them, but I know from experience that you can not act on all these topics at once, despite how much we wish we could. I think that having a primary focus is the best way to start a chain reaction. I have chosen to focus on sustainability because this topic affects us globally, and with the free thinkers AIAS members are, I think a real impact can be made in this category.

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?

Each chapter not only differs in member diversity (numbers, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and wealth) but also geographically (rural, city, weather differences, socioeconomic status, and more). In order to fully understand how to better connect our chapters I think that each chapter needs to be understood in both facets.

As Quad Director, I do not think that you need to reinvent the wheel to be successful. Utilizing the committees and task forces already established by the AIAS for diversity, advocacy and inclusion is a great way to jump start getting the Quad closer connected — **crafting a space for collaborative events between chapters.** At AIAS RWU we have started forming bonds with other student lead organizations such as NOMAS and WLN. Utilizing other organizations helps expand the cultural diversity of the chapters, because each organization offers resources specializing on different issues.

Taking it to a national level, I believe that cross quad collaboration is very important. This can be done with collaborative events, guest appearances at hub hangouts, or even a co—hosted quad conference. This allows for a lot of opportunities to network and understand more about the issues and success of a fellow quad. This also will build a platform to do this on an international level later down the road with our International Ambassadors and chapters abroad.

QUESTIONNAIRE

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 Quad Director's main responsibility is serving as a primary point of contact for chapter presidents, and to ensure that chapters have the tools and resources they need to be successful. On top of that very important task, **the Quad Director acts as the student's voice of AIAS** on the Board of Directors.

Being the primary point of contact I am available 25/8 for questions, concerns or even chit chat about a cool architect you discovered. I am making this promise because as an advocate for the Northeast Quad, I think it is important to always be reachable. We all know how it feels to email a professor a question and wait a week for a response. The general membership deserves a quad director that is present and reachable.

The monthly hub hangouts are a great resource that the Quad Director facilities. I have personally gained so much from each of the hangouts I have attended. As Quad Director my goal is to take the hangouts to another level. **The most important part of our organization is the general member**, but I think that having themed hub hangouts focusing on issues each chapter is dealing with (membership, mental health, diversity, involvement) is a great way to push involvement in the hangouts that will benefit the general membership. Alongside with each chapter bringing their own agenda items and concerns to the hangouts, I hope to provide resources related to a themed topic to hopefully craft a more collaborative meeting, where chapters bounce ideas off each other and start to run these meetings like a seminar on a more consistent basis.

My primary goal within the year long term is the success of each chapter. I am sure that other quad directors have made this their goal as well, but that only talks to its importance. The first step is to make sure each chapter is self-sufficient: does the chapter have by-laws? Does the chapter meet the requirements for a chapter in good standing? If not, that is the first priority of mine to provide aid to. Once the bare necessities are covered, then we can set goals together. How is the chapters relationship with their school? A chapter may have enough members, but how is involvement? All these goals are aimed to help a chapter become sustainable and ensure the longevity of the Northeast Quad.

The final goal I have for my one-year term is establishing more collaboration between chapters and Quads. There are over fifty chapters within the Northeast Quad and each one is a powerhouse of ambition. Collaboration will help with networking and provide events that cannot be achieved inside a single chapter. With collaborating, we bring the Northeast Quad together, our Quad conference does not have to be the only time we see each other outside of FORUM.

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?

AIAS has become my home away from home. I have learned so many lessons, meet so many people, and have been able build skills I had no idea I had inside of me. It is rather difficult to find something to better. Gaining a larger database of high school members is something I think that our already well-rounded organization can work towards. I remember being in history class drawing floorplans in the back row — trying to figure out how to network with other people who shared my passions. Reaching out to high schoolers and starting high school chapters will help these future AIAS Members get resources sooner so they can be more prepared than we were, after all, the main goal is to better things for those who follow us, and I think this is a great way to reach that goal. To do so, I think a more intimate approach is the best way. Instead of a mass email to high schools, either taking the time to reach out individually in person or reaching out as a group at the chapter level is a much stronger approach to relating to our prospective high school members.

Roger Williams University

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, ART AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, Rhode Island 02809-2921 401.254.3605 • 401.254.3565 Fax • www.rwu.edu

November 15, 2021

American Institute of Architecture Students 1736 New York Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20006-5292

RE: Nathan Fehrs, candidate

Northeast Quadrant Director

Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for **Nathan Fehr's** initiative to become Northeast Quadrant Director. As Associate Dean of the School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation, and as Advisor to the AIAS/RWU chapter, I have come to know Nathan as a hardworking and thoughtful student. I have witnessed his active participation in the AIAS, first as chapter member, then as Events Coordinator and most recently as chapter President. He has been attending Forum, Grassroots and N.E. Quad conferences since a freshman at school, and is an invaluable member of our community. Nathan is organized and motivated to succeed.

All of these attributes will also serve to make him a successful director, should the membership decide in his favor. This letter of support is submitted with great enthusiasm and without any reservation.

Sincerely yours,

Gregory Laramie, Alf

Associate Dean

Roger Williams University School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation

MEMBER SUPPORT

NATHAN A. FEHRS, AIAS - 2022-2023 Northeast Quadrant Director

Erin Conti, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, NOMA Elections Chair and Past President American Institute of Architecture Students 1735 New York Ave. Washington D.C. 20006 November 9th, 2021

RE: Nathan A. Fehrs, candidate

Northeastern Quadrant Director

Letter of Support

Dear Past President Erin Conti, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, NOMA,

As Chapter Treasurer, I would like to express my full confidence in Nathan Fehrs as a candidate for the Northeast Quad Director. I have been on the board with Nathan for the past year and a half, and have seen his extensive dedication to AIAS, our chapter, and our members. He has grown tremendously since starting as Events Coordinator and then serving as President. I believe he will thrive in the position of Northeast Quad Director.

Passion for AIAS is something Nathan has in abundance. He is always talking to members and potential members about how AIAS has influenced his college experience. As president, he was accorded more opportunities to explore AIAS from a different perspective, and grow not only as a leader, but also as a person. While there have been bumps in the road, he uses every opportunity to learn from his mistakes and come out of the situation stronger than before. He is a competent problem solver who has a keen ability to compromise. He is full of great ideas to ensure everything runs smoothly and is always willing to lend a hand to those in need. These qualities give me the confidence in his ability to serve as Northeast Quad Director.

Nathan's skills are extensive, and not all came naturally. He has always been outgoing and outspoken, with a strong sense of loyalty and a kind nature. However, he has developed tactfulness and strengthened his interpersonal skills since I have known him. He welcomes and embraces criticism in order to become the best version of himself. It has not been easy, but I believe he has grown into an exceptional leader who leads by example and supports his team.

Overall, Nathan is a well-rounded candidate with the experience he needs to succeed as Northeast Quad Director. No one can deny his dedication to AIAS and its members, and he has the skills to allow him to support the Northeast Quad chapters in all capacities. I believe he will excel in this position, and the Northeast Quad will thrive under his leadership.

Sincerely,

Eliana Greenstein Himle

Eliana Sherst Hinle

Roger Williams University Chapter Treasurer, 2020-2021

INTERNSHIP COMPENSATION

NATHAN A. FEHRS, AIAS - 2022-2023 Northeast Quadrant Director



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS 1735 New York Ave., Washington, DC 20006 2 0 2 . 8 0 8 . 0 0 7 5 | a i a s . o r g

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: Nathan A. Fehrs
I do hereby affirm that I understand and support the AIAS policy on the compensation for interns. If I employee 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:Nathan Fehrs
Date: November 10, 2021

CODE OF ETHICS

NATHAN A. FEHRS, AIAS - 2022-2023 Northeast Quadrant Director



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS 1735 New York Ave., Washington, DC 20006 2 0 2 . 8 0 8 . 0 0 7 5 | a i a s . o r g

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: Nathan A. Fehrs
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:Nathan Fehrs
Date: November 10, 2021
Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

NATHAN A. FEHRS, AIAS - 2022-2023 Northeast Quadrant Director



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS 1735 New York Ave., Washington, DC 20006 2 0 2 . 8 0 8 . 0 0 7 5 I a i a s . o r g

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): Nathan Fehrs			
Chapter: Roger Williams University			
•			
Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Chapter President - 2019 - Present			
Email Address: nathan.fehrs@gmail.com			
Mobile Phone Number: 910 - 777 - 9644			
Social Media Account Handles (optional):			
o Facebook:			
o Twitter: @			
o Instagram: nathanfehrs.aias			
o Other:			