

REBECCA HENNINGS

2023 - 2024 West Quad Director
Candidacy Packet



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Scott Cornelius, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Ave.
Washington D.C. 20006

Dear Past President Cornelius,

I am writing today to share with you and formally declare my intention to run for the 2023-2024 American Institute of Architecture Students West Quad Director.

Immediately upon attending Grassroots 2022, I knew that I wanted to serve the organization at a higher level. On the plane ride home I wrote a list of questions to ask our West Quad Director Tristan to make this moment happen. Being my first in-person conference, I was struck by the incredible camaraderie and love for what we do. The opportunity to make friends and connections at an international level was amazing. I hope to foster connections between students first and foremost. Whether at the large-scale conferences, within the West Quad's daily happenings, or at the more intimate level of one's own chapter, the ability to build connections with your peers is paramount.

Though my tenure in the organization may not be as long as many others who have served in this role, my enthusiasm and dedication to the organization is no less. At the chapter level, I jumped headfirst into AIAS by running for, and being elected to, chapter Vice President immediately as I joined. After one semester as Vice President, I assumed the role of President, and was elected once again for this current academic year. In this year I have been appointed to the Governance Committee as well. My experience at both the local level and the national level excites me to seek a position on the national board.

AIAS has given me the opportunity to grow my capacity as a leader, and make connections with other students far beyond what I could have accomplished on my own. Student connection is the most critical aspect of not only surviving but thriving in this field of study. I hope to have the opportunity to step into this role to aid other students build these critical connections within their own schools as well as throughout the entire West Quad.

The values that AIAS carries are of the utmost importance to the architectural industry. It is critical to create a space where students learn and understand how they contribute to the professional world beginning with who they are as students. The advocacy, innovation, and collaborative spirit begins with students first. I hope to have the opportunity to continue to support students above all else through the role of West Quad Director.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Hennings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Hennings, AIAS
MSU AIAS Chapter President 2022-2023

REBECCA HENNINGS, AIAS

970.430.8007 | rebeccahennings.aias@gmail.com | @squeakypumpkin

LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT

AIAS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER

F22 - S23

Charged with reviewing governing documents, evaluating the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan, & provide recommendations to the National Bylaws

AIAS MSU CHAPTER PRESIDENT S22 - S23

Connection with National Office & aiding student programming

AIAS MSU CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT F21

Worked to stabilize the chapter post COVID

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING COMMITTEE S23

Goals to review courses, create a land acknowledgement, promote DEI workshops, trainings, and events, and look into developing a Diversity core class for MSU CAA

CAMPUS CHRISTIAN CENTER BOARD

MEMBER 10/5/20 - Present

Representative serving on the board of a community use building with student tenants, ensuring the students who use the space have a voice in the decisions being made

CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES IN LEADERSHIP

S23

Upper level honors seminar on the impacts on and changes to leadership in the current day

COLLEGE OF ARTS & ARCHITECTURE

AMBASSADOR F21

Student leader serving to represent the College of Arts & Architecture & assist students

ADVOCAT CAMPUS TOUR GUIDE F20 - S21

Introducing prospective students & families to MSU

EDUCATION

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY 05/12/23

B.A. in Environmental Design

Honors Distinction, Magna Cum Laude

HONORS

STUDENT ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

01/28/23

Breakout session presenter

TAU SIGMA DELTA S22

Inducted to Honors Society for A & AA

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

2021 04/12/21

Poster presenter

FIRST YEAR RESEARCH

EXPERIENCE 10/27/20

Faculty research panel presenter

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS PROGRAM S20

Research grant recipient

WORK EXPERIENCE

DIGITAL LITERACY COACH

08/19/22 - Present

Academic Technology & Outreach at MSU
Bringing Adobe tools & creative methods to those in non-traditionally creative degrees

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER STREET TEAM

10/01/22 - Present

Interboro Partners

Conducting community engagement on updates to Bozeman's Unified Development Code

RESEARCH ASSISTANT 02/01/22 -

08/18/22

Community Design Center at MSU

Researched & designed traffic calming for Lincoln, MT & housing analysis for Shelby, MT

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. 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. Why are you running for a position on the AIAS Board of Directors? What about the organization and its membership motivates you to seek a leadership position?

Upon joining AIAS, I jumped straight into a leadership role. I was elected to chapter Vice President in the second meeting that I attended, and stepped up to be the chapter President in just a semester when the elected President resigned his position. All of the opportunities that I have had have been from taking a chance, and trusting myself and those I work with to lead in a way that helps everyone find their place.

I feel that my experiences at the chapter level, of building back after COVID and taking over when those in charge do not perform their duties, have allowed me to grow and become ready for the next level of leadership. Through my current term as a member of the Governance Committee, I have had the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how the national office works, and the nuance to the technical side of the organization. I have also served as a board member for two years for a community use building specifically to give insight on and a voice to the students that actually use the space.

This is just how my previous experience has prepared me for the position. I feel strongly that joining AIAS leadership has been, by far, the most positive and influential choice that I have made during my time in university. The connections that I have forged, with students in my chapter and school, students elsewhere in the organization, and my faculty have been formative to how I understand the world of architecture.

These experiences are what motivate me to run for a board position. The students involved in AIAS have a drive to continuously improve themselves, and their practice. The opportunity to be in a position to help others build and strengthen these connections drives me to want to be a better leader. There is always room for continued support, and for these methods to be improved upon.

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

My leadership style is rooted in collaboration with both those in my executive support system and those that I aim to lead. As just one person, it's an important skill to know when to reach out to your team for assistance. It makes for a stronger team overall. My experience of taking over chapter presidency mid-year, and trying to support the chapter in my capacity of Vice President beforehand, was trying.

I experienced firsthand how a group struggles when its elected officials do not do the work that is needed of them. I feel the responsibility of the positions that I have held, and do not take the trust of my peers lightly. I think that being able to connect with those who are leading is critical. I always strive to make myself available to anyone in the school, regardless of if they are an AIAS member or not. I want people to know that if they are struggling, or have an issue they need help resolving, I am there for them.

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 & 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?

Learning and teaching culture is of the utmost importance to architecture students as they navigate the difficulties of an architecture program. For many people, this is the first time they are experiencing a program of such rigor. The connections that you make with other students, and your faculty, are paramount to being able to thrive in a program. Connection with others is an important part of what AIAS facilitates. Within the Montana State University chapter, we established a focus on mentorship, leadership, and studio culture for the 2022-2023 year to work to address this. While all of the values of AIAS are important, at our chapter we felt that the connection to our peers was what hadn't quite come back since COVID years. Even looking around my own studio today, the community part of studio culture feels lacking. There is a whole new host of students, however, who have not had to deal with this rift. Creating that environment of collaboration, and connection with fellow students and faculty, is critical in ensuring that studio culture is not changed negatively forever.

As West Quad Director, I would strive to progress learning and teaching culture at each individual chapter. Having candid conversations with chapter leadership about their studio culture, and the policies and feelings around it, would be the first step. I feel this would also be an excellent topic within the Quad Pod Calls, to allow students to see what other chapters' studios are like and share ideas. Ensuring that they have all of the proper documents on the topic that they need, and supporting any chapters that need to address the topic with their schools, is something that being on the Board of Directors would allow me to assist with.

4. The AIAS has over 250 chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size, age range, and even purpose. 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 West Quad is one of the most diverse, and far-flung regions when it comes to local chapters. In this past year, connection has been emphasized and great strides have been made.

Continuing to foster the bonds between schools geographically near each other is important. I think there is also opportunity for less obvious relationships. How can connections made in Pod Calls or at conferences become something more, for the whole chapter? Perhaps there can be groups formed based on different kinds of events that chapters spit on, or by pedagogical interests. By creating these broader contacts, there is a diversity of thought introduced. Sharing ideas is what will keep the chapters fresh, and allow for growth.

I think that one way to support this is to put different chapter leaders in contact with each other. It's hard to know what connections you should try to make at times, or how to go about doing so. By starting that process for chapters, it may take some of the difficulty out of it.

Every chapter has different needs, which can be difficult to navigate. Through the connections and observations I have already made, I feel that I am prepared to assist. Discussed further under my primary goals in the next question, I believe that there needs to be resources that provide more specific support to chapter leaders based on their issues that are shared by several other chapters, but certainly not all.

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.

To me, one of the most valuable aspects of being a part of AIAS is the connections that you make with other students. My goal is to support that in the best way that I can. Quad Pod Calls hold a special place in my heart, and continuing to host multiple opportunities for cross-chapter connection is important. Forming individual relationships with chapter leadership is also important. Individual check-ins with students, as well as being available when needed, will help strengthen the West Quad. I think it's important to be available to all students, not just the chapter presidents. Though by definition, the presidents are the ones maintaining the national relationships, I would like to ensure that the entire executive boards of each school know who I am and how to get in touch with me. Knowing that they can reach out with any issues or questions they have may help chapter leadership feel supported, and potentially invite more students to become involved with national leadership.

Another major goal that I have is to work to support each unique chapter. Specifically, I see the differing needs of small and large chapters as an area of opportunity for growth. What works for a chapter of 11 people won't have the same impact at a chapter with 50 people. I would like to look into collecting information on best practices and suggestions based on chapter size for students to refer to when they have issues or have a board transformation. Talking with our individual members, and finding what has worked for them at the scale that they have will be critical to this.



November 21, 2022,

AIAS West Quad Director Letter of Recommendation for Rebecca Hennings;

I was introduced to Rebecca the fall semester of 2020, when she as was enrolled as a student in my second-year design studio at the School of Architecture at Montana State University. Despite the constraints and stressors imposed by the COVID pandemic, Rebecca preformed at an extraordinary level. The caliber of her work was exemplary under normal circumstances, and I marvel at her abilities and the tenacity required to complete her studio work at such a high level during such a challenging time. This example exemplifies Rebecca's unwavering commitment to her education and passion for learning.

Rebecca exhibited these same traits her involvement with the Montana State University School of Architecture chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). She began her MSU School of Architecture AIAS tenure in 2021 and then was elected to serve as the vice president for the 2021-2022 academic year, paralleling her third year in the program. The individual who was elected to serve as the president did very little to fulfill the obligations of the office, and Rebecca quietly stepped-up to serve both as ex facto president while simaetaneously serving as vice president. Her willingness to shoulder the responsibilities of both offices for the good of the chapter, while maintaining a positive relationship with the president even though he was not effective in that position, clearly demonstrated Rebecca's ability to positively navigate leadership challenges. As the MSU AIAS Faculty Advisor, I had a unique perspective to witness Rebecca's mature and collaborative leadership style as this situation unfolded.

This past year, Rebecca was elected to formally serve as president of the chapter for the 2022-2023 academic year. Her primary focus is to break-down the silos between students in the various years of the curriculum, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for all, not just AIAS members. She is facilitating outreach events specifically targeting the first and second-year students including "milk/cocoa and cookies" during their studio deadlines, and sponsoring workshops to help introduce lower-level students to various software fundamentals.

In an effort to improve inclusiveness within the school, Rebeca has opened-up the monthly general membership meetings to the entire student body, not just AIAS members. Her goal is to make all feel

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welcome and hopefully engender increased interest and participation in the chapter and its events.

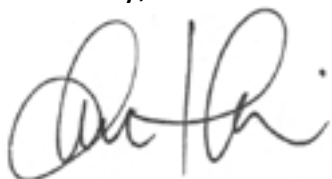
Under Rebecca's direction, AIAS is also working with a local therapy dog group to coordinate times to visit the school during studio deadlines, and support students' well-being and reduce their stress levels. Additionally, AIAS has sponsored a "free library" competition in conjunction with campus food services. The winners of the design of these external placed, free-standing "mini-libraries" will be awarded cash prizes, and the competition is open to everyone at all levels of the curriculum.

Next term, Rebecca is coordinating a series of workshops to prepare our students for real-world scenarios such as interviewing and salary/benefit negotiation strategies and applying for internships. Also, these workshops, open to the entire student body, will include portfolio and resume' writing workshops. She is relying on heavily on local practitioners and members of the School's Advisory Council to lead these workshops, thus increasing AIAS and the school's contact with the professional community.

Rebecca quietly leads by example. She is incredibly hard working, focused, and perhaps most importantly, KIND. These traits and have her on an extraordinarily positive trajectory both academically and professionally, and make her an excellent candidate for AIAS West Quad Director! I give Rebecca's candidacy my highest possible endorsement.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chere LeClair', written in a cursive style.

Chere LeClair, FAIA NCARB LEED AP
Teaching Professor
AIAS Faculty Advisor

November 26, 2022

To whom it may concern,

It is an honor to write in full support of Rebecca Hennings as the 2023-2024 West Quad Director.

As acting Vice President of AIAS Montana State University, I've witnessed firsthand the commitment, work ethic, and positivity Rebecca brings to our chapter. I have seen Rebecca bring her all to work towards a higher quality environment and community within AIAS as well as the school. Her creativity and dedication has inspired countless ideas for student involvement and has seen these ideas through. At the start of the semester, it became clear that AIAS's goal was to improve the overall environment of the Architecture building, and Rebecca has worked relentlessly to accomplish that goal.

Since my involvement, Rebecca has either headed or supported every idea that members, students, faculty, or advisors have recommended. Examples include the "Little Library" competition for on-campus housing, the beginning of school raffle, a welcome back taco party for the school of architecture, monthly general member meetings for student involvement, and building tours for incoming students. Before I was involved, the Lunch and Learns implemented last year remain to be one of the most successful programs I've seen AIAS do that Rebecca has undertaken, which is definitely worth mentioning.

Rebecca is not only accomplished in what she's done for AIAS, but also as a teammate and asset to our chapter. Rebecca has a consistently amazing attitude in extenuating circumstances and I've come to know her as a reliable and positive influence on the people around her. It has truly been a pleasure to work alongside her and I believe that she would be an asset to the AIAS National Board of Directors.

For any further questions you can email me at benfoster.ias@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Ben Foster
AIAS Montana State University
Chapter Vice President 22-23



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: Rebecca Hennings

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: *Rebecca Hennings*

Date: 10/25/2022



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: Rebecca Hennings

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: *Rebecca Hennings*

Date: 10/25/2022

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): Rebecca Hennings

Chapter: Montana State University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President

Email Address: rebeccahennings.aias@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: (970) 430-8007

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: _____
- o Twitter: @_____
- o Instagram: squeakypumpkin
- o Other: LinkedIn: Rebecca Hennings, AIAS