



May 28, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

As Large State components of the American Institute of Architects, we are concerned about membership changes being proposed for approval by delegates at the Annual Business Meeting on June 5. While we appreciate efforts to increase the prospective membership pool which could potentially result in additional revenue, we feel these bylaw changes are not an effective way to accomplish those goals and, in many cases, lead to less perceived value of membership and more burden for service delivery at all levels. We ask delegates to consider voting as follows:

2.012 Associate Members. OPPOSE. We can see how those who have been associate members for many years may desire a more elevated category. Firms though, will likely be concerned with the use of the title Senior Associate AIA. Senior Associate implies a hierarchy of qualifications and an advanced level of firm leadership. Having "Jane/John Doe, Senior Associate AIA" on a business card could lead clients to conclude that the person is a licensed architect in a leadership position. This may also be a potential conflict with a job title of the individual or firm. Perhaps another designation could be considered that would not be misunderstood. We welcome ways to distinguish valued, longtime contributors to architecture who are not on a licensure path. This does not suggest a prudent approach.

2.013 Internationally Licensed Architecture Professional. OPPOSE. While we respect the effort to attract more members with international architecture registrations, this proposed category uses statutory and regulatory terminology restricted to practitioners licensed in the U.S. Multiple options exist for these individuals to receive U.S. licensure and therefore be eligible for AIA architect membership, either through a Mutual Recognition Agreement or the NCARB Foreign Architect Path. Granting an architecture professional designation outside of regulatory bodies will create undue confusion for clients and the public while implying licensure for those who are not. It also risks weakening the AIA credential for licensed members to imply they can only take on domestic commissions. We also find the new language on International Associate members to be unnecessary and unclear. Those holding a non-U.S. architecture degree could qualify for associate membership by working under the supervision of a licensed architect. There are established paths to practice for this cohort that do not require a new subset of a membership category.

2.014 Student Members. OPPOSE. We applaud efforts to grow the pipeline of members graduating and entering the profession, however we fear the student category may create unintended competition with current organizations like AIAS and NOMAS. We would rather this be launched as a collaborative effort, perhaps

including reciprocal AIA membership along with these already established and thriving student organizations. We encourage it be supplemental and supportive and not duplicative of the benefits these student organizations are already providing.

2.016 Academic Members. OPPOSE. We are pleased to see continued efforts to engage schools of architecture. The establishment of an academic membership category raises more questions than answers, however. A lack of designation, access to fewer privileges and no specific programs or services identified for this group do not strike us as a welcoming and inclusive posture and may only reinforce the skepticism held by some in this audience about the sincerity of AIA addressing their needs. Here again, a collaborative effort with ACSA would be much preferred. We also must question components being excluded from the dues rate development for this category. We hope that this one-price-for-all concept has been thoroughly vetted by legal counsel for compliance with applicable laws and consent decrees. We also have reservations about whether these new members can be effectively served at the assigned price.

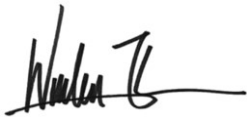
We recognize efforts to increase membership and to connect those in the architecture circle to AIA as a worthy endeavor. These new categories with their limited privileges will not be equal to being an architect or associate member and reduced benefits will not be enough for members to stay long-term. If this change does result in more members, the objective will be in retaining their membership over time, which requires real programs and real servicing at real cost. Just how to meet their expectations of service has not been addressed or resourced adequately, especially as it concerns local and state components.

Above all, we strongly underline that our priorities should remain dedicated to serving the current core member categories--architects and associates--who have not joined. This population of over 100,000 individuals represents the largest potential membership expansion by far. Perhaps when we've effectively proven our value to these colleagues, we may be more attractive and better positioned to serve new membership groups.

With so much possible conflict, confusion, and consequence, we respectfully request to pause these changes and take more time to develop this initiative in collaboration with those who are partners in serving the members. We have one chance to introduce our association to new audiences and the path for these potential new members needs to be clearly defined while not losing focus on who we are as an Institute.

We truly hope you'll consider these concerns, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you in greater detail.

Sincerely,



Winston Thorne, AIA, NOMA, NCARB, CSBA  
AIA California 2024 President



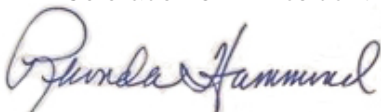
Jeff Jenó, AIA  
AIA Illinois 2024 President



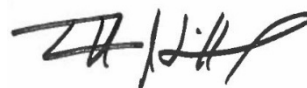
Julianne Scherer, AIA  
AIA Colorado 2024 President



Ellen A. Watts, FAIA  
AIA Massachusetts 2024 President



Rhonda Hammond, AIA  
AIA Florida 2024 President



Todd Drouillard, AIA  
AIA Michigan 2024 President

*Brian W. Penschow, AIA*

Brian W. Penschow, AIA  
AIA New Jersey 2024 President

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Willy Zambrano, FAIA  
AIA New York State 2024 President

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Michael Metzger, AIA, LEED AP  
AIA Pennsylvania 2024 President

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Kelly D. Callahan, AIA  
AIA Virginia 2024 President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'DB', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dave Buescher, AIA  
AIA Washington 2024 President