Candidate Statement

Schools of architecture are design communities where students learn how to harness creativity to tackle complexity under the guidance of teachers who are continuously responding to the challenges of shifting contexts. Together they chart new directions and launch future trends. Schools differ, cultures evolve and technologies advance, but the value of design that shapes the built environment endures at the core of architectural education.

As our community of communities, the ACSA is uniquely positioned to harness our collective creativity. It is our voice and our network for ideas that transform architectural education and research, and influence the future of higher education, design practice, environmental sustainability, and society. Thanks to the wisdom of the ACSA board and staff, with leadership from an extraordinary team in Executive Director Michael Monti, Past President, Marilys Nepomechie, President Bruce Lindsey, President Elect Francisco Rodriguez-Suarez and Second Vice President Branco Kolarevic, the 2016-19 strategic plan transitions ACSA's role from an organization that serves to an organization that leads. This opens doors. I envision ACSA as a leading catalyst for international partnerships, interdisciplinary partnerships, and partnerships among entities in architecture and allied fields.

Academic Experience
I am Dean of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design at California Polytechnic State University where it is my privilege to steward five nationally recognized accredited programs in architecture, landscape architecture, planning, engineering, and construction. Previously, I served as head of the University of Oregon Architecture Department. I have been a faculty member at public and private schools where programs with different missions serve a broad spectrum of learning communities. In collaboration with colleagues, and inspired by students, I have furthered curricular innovations, launched new programs, supported research initiatives, and realized opportunities for partnerships and recognition that have advanced the goals and increased the visibility of schools of design in the US and internationally. As an ACSA member working to advance architectural education, I look to the ACSA as a forum where we leverage the intertwined values of our schools and careers.

Practice Experience
I explore ways to integrate architecture and engineering practice to improve earthquake-resistant design, address environmental implications of building design, and advance architects' knowledge of structures. As an advisor on building stock data that informs decisions made by state and local governments, and as an international delegate at post-earthquake planning exchanges with China, Taiwan and Japan, I advocate for design that creates safer, more resilient communities. Through this work I see exciting, but as yet untapped, potentials for the ACSA to provide leadership that positions architecture schools as essential partners in STEM initiatives.

Collaterals Experience
As a member of the NAAB and AIAS boards, and as founding president of the BTES (Building Technology Educators Society), I worked on initiatives that led to positive change. My experience with architectural accreditation includes service on teams visiting fifteen ACSA member schools--each with a unique culture. During my time on the NAAB board I advocated for accreditation standards with greater flexibility and room for pedagogical innovation, while furthering consensus among students, educators, practitioners, regulators and public members. The variety of collateral perspectives offers a rich resource for schools. International and interdisciplinary collaborations further improve the quality of education and experience that prepares architecture students for careers, and advances architecture practice and research. ACSA has successfully engaged with growing numbers of architecture organizations, but there is an increasing need for strategic engagement with influential organizations outside our disciplinary realm. It is time to amplify ACSA's voice in national conversations about education, social equity and the environment.

ACSA Experience
Since the start of my teaching career, I have been active in the ACSA, contributing to and benefiting from numerous programs and activities. As co-chair of ACSA meetings, I framed questions and convened dialog. As treasurer of the board, I gained insight into the relationship between ACSA's mission, resources and strategic development. As ACSA's liaison to the AIAS board, I took part in the creation of the AIAS Studio Culture Initiative. I represented the ACSA at the 2013 Accreditation Review Conference and on task forces for various initiatives. Throughout, my appreciation for ACSA's role in furthering dialog between the academy and practice; and among diverse academic programs and pedagogies, continues to deepen.

Collaborating with ACSA colleagues on projects that advance the future of architectural education has been truly rewarding, both professionally and personally. I am optimistic, inspired by the vision and dedication of the ACSA board and staff, and committed to ACSA's mission to lead architectural education and research. Thank you for the honor to be a candidate for second vice president.
Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

TEACHING / ADMINISTRATION
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo  Dean, College of Architecture & Environmental Design  2012 - Present
Univ. of Oregon  Head, Department of Architecture  2003 - 2012
  Associate Professor, Professor  1997 - 2012
  Director, Co-director, Teaching Technology Certificate  2000 - 2012
Cal Poly Pomona  Assistant Professor, Associate Professor  1990 - 1997
  Director, Neutra VDL Research House  1992 - 1997
Southern Calif. Inst. of Architecture  Adjunct Faculty  1991 - 1993
Otis Art Inst.  Adjunct Faculty  1989 - 1991
Univ. of Calif. Los Angeles  Adjunct Faculty  1988 - 1990
Univ. of Southern Calif.  Adjunct Faculty  1987 - 1988
Univ. of Houston  Assistant Professor  1985 - 1987

PRACTICE
State of Calif.  Licensed Architect  1994 - Present
State of Calif.  Registered Professional Civil Engineer  1992 - Present
  State of Oregon  General Post-Earthquake Inspector  1999 - Present
National Endowment for the Arts  Western Region Design Arts Representative  1988 - 1990
Parsons Corp., Pasadena  Associate Structural Engineer  1979 - 1982

EDUCATION
Yale University  Master of Architecture  1985
Princeton University  Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering  1979

SERVICE
ACSA  Treasurer  2003 - 2005
  Co-chair Technology Meeting, West Region Meeting  1999, 2001
BTES  Founding President  2008 - 2009
  Co-founder: Technology Teaching Award for Emerging Faculty  2011
NAAB  Treasurer, Board Member  2005 - 2008
  Visiting Teams Member, Chair  2002 - Present
  Accreditation Review Conferences Participant, Task Forces Member  2008 - Present
AIA  California Architectural Foundation Board Regent  2012 - Present
  AIA Oregon Board Member  2003 - 2012
  Meetings Presenter & Contributor, Awards Juror  2000 - Present
AIAS  Faculty Liaison to the Board, Awards Juror, Student Chapter Advisor  2000 - 2010

PUBLICATIONS
“Seismic Design Education in Schools of Architecture,” Building Technology Educators Symposium. 2006

HONORS
ACSA Distinguished Professor  2017
Admired Educator recognition in America’s Best Architecture and Design Schools, DesignIntelligence  2016
NCARB Prize, Lead of faculty-practitioner studio teaching team  2011

For more information, please visit http://architecture.calpoly.edu/faculty/Theodoropoulos