

Aerospace Department Chair Association Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2005
AIAA Aerospace Sciences meeting

Past Chair: Mike Braggs
Chair: Awatef (Tafi) Hamed
Chair-Elect: Tom Shih

Prof. Awatef (Tafi) Hamed called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

- Agenda and minutes of the 2004 meeting were distributed. Also, an attendance sheet was circulated with a request for corrections and updates. Lex Smits is maintaining the ADCA web site.
- Minutes of the 2004 meeting were approved.
- Walter O'Brian of VPI&SU gave an overview on the National Institute of Aerospace that is led by Robert Whitehead (his PowerPoint presentation was distributed to the ADCA membership in late Jan. 2005).
- Nominations were opened for the 2005-06 Secretary/Treasurer position. Bob Walters of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University was nominated and elected. Tom Shih of Iowa State University will become Chair for 2005-06 as is the custom, having served as Secretary/Treasurer in 2004-05.
- The enrollment data collected and archived by Penn State was presented by George Lesieutre. Dennis McLaughlin at Penn State started this effort for ADCA in 1989, and we are grateful for his efforts. Mike Halick of the National Institute of Aerospace offered to take over the responsibilities for our 2006 ADCA annual meeting.
- John LaGraff, Syracuse University, chair of Academic Affairs Committee, updated the group on ABET matters. ABET reviews 10 to 11 programs annually, and needs nominations for evaluators. Boeing has sent many evaluators, but ABET wants a balance of evaluators from academia and industry. There are two opportunities to learn how to become an ABET evaluator. One is to attend a workshop on ABET held at the Reno meeting, organized by Dave Holger, Iowa State University and chair of the Engineering Accreditation Commission. The other is to observe an ABET visit (AIAA sends 3 to 4 every year, but ABET does not pay for travel costs of the observer).

- AIAA Vice President for Education reported that the Board of Directors approved in Jan. 2004 an initiative to expand student competitions to include two student conferences outside of the US, one on Western Europe and one in Australia/Asia. There is a need to stake out a leadership role outside of US to get more members. AIAA President Roger Simpson encourages academics to enter into top positions.
- Stephen Brocks reported on AIAA membership and the need to recruit student members and convert them to regular members when they graduate and enter the work force. Proposals include keep better records on student addresses to improve communication, get them involved in technical committees, and get them involved in local AIAA sections.
- Dolores Krausche (ASEE) circulated a proposed worksheet for the Aerospace Department Database project. The goal is provide data to chairs for ABET accreditation. She encourages departments to send their data for inclusion. Hopes to obtain at least 10 institutions' input. She can be reached at dsk@atlantic.net.
- Discussions on how to increase student participation indicated that travel money is a problem. On this, it was noted the local professional AIAA sections can provide some funding for trips to AIAA conferences. The alternative is to get students more involved in local student sections, student regional conferences, and local professional sections.
- For international students, fewer come to the US because of VISA problems and less job opportunities, especially in the aerospace sector. Also, Europe and Australia are recruiting aggressively from China and India. AIAA and NIA are working with Congress on this issue.
- Tafi Hamed adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm.