

**Aerospace Department Chairs Association
Annual Meeting, 2009
Reno Hilton, Reno, NV**

Meeting called to order at 7:22 p.m. by Association Acting Head Dr. Colin P. Britcher, assisted by Dr. Helen Reed as Past Chair and Mohamed Hossain, Acting Secretary.

ADCA Officials and invited speakers were introduced, followed by a brief review of the agenda. Copies of the 2008 minutes were distributed and a motion to approve was made and passed without amendment. Copies of current contact information were circulated for update.

Annalisa Weigel (Assistant Professor, MIT) gave an overview of an aerospace student attitude survey, intended to help guide recruiting and retention. The survey would be web-based, conducted mostly in Spring 2009, with results presented at ADCA 2010 as well as Inside Aerospace 2009. Dept Chairs were asked to assist with providing contact information and/or publicity for undergraduate students¹. Some suggestions to increase response rates were discussed, as were difficulties in identifying students level, and issues surrounding release of student's contact information.

John Cavalowsky (Acting Director, Aerospace Systems Program, NASA HQ) gave an overview of the NASA Aerospace Systems program. The main thrust is widely known as NextGen and focuses on improved traffic flow management systems, improving system throughput and safety. Program is divided into Airportal and Airspace components. Possible R&D areas where academic Departments might get involved were discussed. Definition of timelines for progression of R&D from fundamental research to transition/deployment of same is a key factor. In response to a question, it was apparent that there were no active programs to involve students in this work area, other than via NRA solicitations. An informal voice poll suggested that a minority of departments represented had any current related activity in either academic programs or research.

Amy Pritchett (Director, Aviation Safety Program and Associate Professor, Georgia Tech) discussed NASA's Aviation Safety program. Program emphasis is on long-term technology development with a 2016 target. Current issues of interest to the NTSB and FAA were discussed. Accident causes were reviewed, noting that they are so rare that statistics can be unreliable. Current research needs and NASA's skill gaps were discussed, including materials science, flight-critical software validation, control systems, human factors, and icing. A second informal voice poll suggested that a minority of programs represented had any current related activity in either academic programs or research.

Klaus Dannenberg (AIAA staff) discussed the upcoming Inside Aerospace 2009 event to be held May 12-13 just outside Washington D.C.². The conference focus this year is rebuilding the aerospace workforce. Karen Sklencar (AIAA staff) discussed the meeting agenda in

¹ Focus on sophomores and seniors, with follow-ups post graduation.

² ADCA was represented at said meeting by Dr. Colin P. Britcher.

some detail, with emphasis on rebuilding the image of the aerospace industry, increasing diversity, stimulating interest in aerospace, etc.

Bob Silverstein (AIAA staff) gave brief presentation on recruiting and advertising opportunities through AIAA publications.

Mohamed Hossain, (NIA staff, on assignment from USAF) ADCA's acting secretary, presented the results of the 2008/9 survey of aerospace programs, conducted by the National Institute of Aerospace. Undergraduate programs were seen to be in a phase of slow overall growth, with graduate programs in a phase of slow overall decline. The definition of a minority student was discussed³ and a recommendation made that males and females should be separately identified in all categories if possible. It was agreed that the information could be posted on the ADCA web site.

Bernie Grossman (NIA staff) presented the status of the NIA Hypersonic Education Initiative. 6 short courses have been conducted, involving 50 instructors⁴. CDs/DVDs or downloads are available to all Universities on request. A proposal for follow-on funding was not approved, so the material is complete for the time being.

Chairs or designees present at the meeting were now asked to introduce themselves (this step was overlooked from earlier in the meeting). Identified from the audio were San Diego State, U. Cincinnati, NC State, Wichita State, U. Illinois, George Washington University, Purdue, Penn State, Georgia Tech, Oklahoma State, U. Oklahoma, Iowa State, New Mexico State, Virginia Tech, U. Kentucky, U. Minnesota, Texas A&M, Maryland, RPI, Mississippi State, Air Force Academy, and ODU. *Around 4 other responders could not be heard on the audio tape, and some representatives had left the meeting by this time.*

Helen Reed (Texas A&M and ADCA Past Chair) presented a report from the AIAA Academic Affairs Committee, which met on Sunday 4th. Discussions had centered on structured programming education⁵, planning for education sessions in AIAA conferences, ABET reviews, maintaining aerospace's influence therein, opportunities for ABET program evaluator training. A volunteer was needed to be ADCA's liaison to the Academic Affairs committee⁶.

John Valasek (Texas A&M, President ΣΓΤ) presented on behalf of Sigma Gamma Tau, the aerospace honor society⁷. The history and purpose of the organization was briefly reviewed. The organization is divided into 9 regions. The process for selecting candidates for the outstanding seniors award within each chapter and region was discussed. The process for restarting chapters was detailed.

³ The survey had asked responders to self-define.

⁴ Fundamentals, aerodynamics, structures and materials, propulsion, entry/descent & landing, and systems

⁵ i.e. MATLAB, C++, etc.

⁶ UNFINISHED BUSINESS?

⁷ Dr. Roy Myose, Wichita State University is the chair-elect for 2009 and beyond

A brief discussion on the national budget situation and its potential impact on aerospace programs was initiated by Colin Britcher. Although the situation is serious, it was not clear whether constructive action was possible.

The status of the process for refining ADCA's bylaws was discussed. Some changes had been made at the 2008 meeting⁸, but slight ambiguity had occurred related to article 5 section 1, definition of a quorum. A consensus interpretation was established that a quorum consisted of 50% voting when present at an annual meeting or by electronic means, so the process was effectively concluded.

Helen Reed took over as Chair of the meeting to conduct the election of new officers for the term beginning June 1, 2009. Consistent with the new officer terms as per the 2008 meeting, all officers were to be re-elected from scratch. Colin Britcher and Gary Balas were introduced as candidates for Chair, with each making a brief presentation to the meeting. An off-the-record discussion then took place with the candidates absent. A process for an electronic vote was initiated since the meeting attendance had fallen below a quorum.

Volunteers for the position of secretary/treasurer were again solicited.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted – Dr. Colin P. Britcher, ADCA Acting Chair.

⁸ Officers serve for 2 year terms with biennial elections and no automatic succession