

AIAA LA-LV Section Council Meeting Minutes
AIAA LA-LV Section Council Meeting
July 13, 2021 6:00 PM PDT – Virtually Conducted
Meeting Location: Zoom

Attendance: **X** – Absent; **A** -Attended

	Council Member, Council Position	Attendance
1	Jeff Puschell, Section Chair	A
2	Ken Lui, Events and Program Chair	A
3	Arianna Sanchez, Secretary	X
4	Khushbu Patel, STEM K-12 Outreach Chair	X
5	Marty Waldman, Las Vegas Chapter Chair	A
6	Gary Moir, Technical Chair	A
7	Jordan Chilcott, Public Policy Chair	X - Recording
8	Marilyn McPoland, Treasurer	A
9	Aakash Naresh, Young (Early Career) Professional	X
10	Aldo Martinez, Vice Chair	A

(Note: Dr. Seth Potter (President of OASIS (LA Chapter of National Space Society (NSS) attended the meeting as ex-officio (non-voting) Ambassador)

6:05 PM Call to Order & Dr. Jeff Puschell, Chair Updates:

(Dr. Puschell Called in Order for the Meeting at 6:05 PM PDT.)

▪Old Business: Congratulations to elected council members. The results were posted on the website. Annual report was submitted. The Financial report was submitted. The AIAA Section competitions will be announced later on this year. New Business: 2021-2022 Budget has been approved. Things had been done *pro forma*. Marilyn has the treasurer report and will be presented by Dr. Puschell, as she would join the council meeting late.

▪Arianna has been busy. The Meeting Minutes in the past few months were not available. (note: The May Council Meeting draft was prepared by Dr. Ken Lui and emailed to Arianna on May 14)

6:12 PM Treasurer Updates: (by the Section Chair, Dr. Jeff Puschell, as Marilyn McPoland hasn't joined the meeting)

▪On the Treasure's Charts provided by Ms. McPoland: In June: Income: \$212.23, Expenses: \$411.53. Event expenses: \$183.54, one time (annually) fees for the PO Box and the Quicken are \$51.99 and \$176.00.

▪Bank Balance as of 6/30/2021: \$76.235.25.

▪Dr. Puschell suggested not to roll the CD when the current term expires. It doesn't make money as the rate is very low.

6:17 PM Mr. Jordan Chilcott, Public Policy Chair Updates: (No present. Playing the pre-recorded audio and also show slides.)

▪Jordan showed and discussed the AIAA Strategic Plan 2018-2021, pointing it out no change in the past 2 years. (He mentioned it could be due to the COVID-19 Pandemic) He felt there was no goal set for ourselves and those national plans are achievable but not impressive. It's suggested we should address the weakness so people would join AIAA but not other organizations. He felt we were not doing anything interesting and nothing was produced.

▪Jordan pointed out the blank page or the Section Engage Visions and Goals and said we didn't have the goals and visions, and asked if we don't have a website updater.

(Note: This page was update the same evening on July 13, 2021, and an email was sent out to the Council Members on July 14, 2021 morning. Thanks to Dr. Jeff Puschell for pointing it out the official writings from the Annual Report. This page is hence updated. <https://engage.aiaa.org/losangeles-lasvegas/about-us/vision-and-goals>)

(Note: Dr. Ken Lui has been the updater for the website (previously it was Dr. Lisa Kaspin-Powell) and routinely, if not daily, updating the website. It was not posted (partly on purpose) as an official writing was not found, and it's better not to post anything randomly. It's not an issue of the updater. Updating it take very minimal amount of time. I knew it was there somewhere. *But it didn't mean we didn't have and goals or visions. We had and knew them all along ways Both the Section and the National AIAA have very clear goals and missions/visions.* And we have been practicing them in our activities, like the Excellence Awards, James Wertz Scholarship, High School STEM Awards, SCTC essay contests, Section Meetings / events, etc. to encourage, inspire, educate/inform as some of the examples. If any council member is not sure what we have been doing, it' suggested to ask the Section Chair.)

(Note: For the AIAA General Missions and goals, they have been posted on AIAA website aiaa.org, and showed some history of AIAA as well, just for reference:

AIAA National/Overall Description/About AIAA:

<https://www.aiaa.org/about>

AIAA National/Overall: Mission, Vision, Tagline, and Credo

<https://www.aiaa.org/about/Mission-Vision-Tagline-and-Credo>)

▪Jordan mentioned some example Vision and Goals. (The assumption the Section didn't have any Vision or Goal, which was untrue.)

▪Dr. Puschell commented we did have goals. Some formulation might be good. For example, the financial balances. And we did have been doing things interesting, like the events we have been doing weekly. But we do need to keep growing the membership and the balance the budget. We have been adjusting the ticket pricing to increase the incentive for the members. He indicated there was the Section Goals there in the Annual Report submitted last month. He appreciated Jordan for bringing this up. We follow the general goals of AIAA, with 2-3 more specific goals, like balancing the budgets, bringing benefits to the membership, and aligning the finance etc. with the goals.

▪Dr. Lui commented we got donations and praises, and new members regularly. We do have the goals. The page was deliberately left blank. We could have copied from the AIAA HQ website. We do have the goals and visions. We have been updating the website regularly. Updating it only takes 5 seconds. Dr. Ken Lui expressed people didn't really understand the value, goals/visions, activities etc. We had speakers and attendees highly respecting and praising us, citing great jobs well done and the prestige of AIAA. It's confusing someone would say we didn't do anything, had no goals, and nothing interesting was done. All the activities, from the Section Meetings/Events, Aero Alumni meetings, Annual Excellence Awards, Student Scholarship, James Wertz Scholarship etc., were all practices and dashes for the clear goals/visions, as it has been very clear. It's the practice that's important for putting those clear visions and goals in practice. Public Policy might have some important issues like CVD, Aerospace etc.

to develop.

- Dr. Potter indicated it's good Jordan mentioned to make sure we have a goal, even it's outside the function of the Public Policy. He suggested it's good to keep the big picture and goals in mind, and show the real faces in events. He felt it's important to bring things to the aerospace communities, not just the big companies, and for people in transitions.

- Dr. Puschell indicated the data-driven issue mentioned in Jordan's slides/pre-recorded meeting. There are some benefits. At the same time, it's also to bring the members the satisfactions. And some of the issues are not shown clearly in data. Dr. Lui indicated certain issues it took years to develop and behind-the-scene, it can't be quantized. Dr. Puschell indicated during the Pandemic it could be difficult to follow some of the goals/visions, but hopefully this could be addressed and he would help.

- Marilyn joined the meeting earlier in this session with Jordan's pre-recorded messages. She mentioned the online events have been helping keeping people networking together during the Pandemic. And the cultivation is also a very important aspect. There have been several consistent donations. People would not have done so if they didn't think our program appealing or doing good jobs. Dr. Puschell mentioned it's good for those virtual events, otherwise, we would not have had many attendees or good speakers outside this area or even from the international regions.

- Aldo commented it might not be easy for people to see or understand what AIAA is and the benefits are, especially for people just joined the membership not for long. Even during COVID-19 we kept the finance positive. The national goals were last updated in 2019, possibly due to the last CVD taking place. People in the car might not be able to see the visions/goals easily. It's suggested to reward Jordan's question with explanations/background about the AIAA and the Section. Some points could be further discussed, while some points could be answered with more backgrounds about AIAA/the Section.

- Gary indicated aerospace has a very broad scope and it's difficult to outline it with a sentence of two in the Visions and Goals.

6:59 PM Treasurer Updates Continued: (as Marilyn McPoland joined the meeting)

- Dr. Puschell asked Marilyn about the CD if we should keep it as the rate is very low and suggested we might just pulling the money back into the Saving's account if no penalty. Marilyn said there would be no penalties. And she would look into it. Gary suggested it's better to keep thing safe and secure, and anyway we are in the almost-zero interest area and it's better not to lock the money long term in things like the CD.

7:08 PM Mr. Aldo Martinez Martinez, Vice Chair Updates:

- Aldo indicated he would try to bridge the gaps, and discuss more about the vacant council positions.

- Dr. Puschell mentioned previously we had more involvement from SMC and he tried to find some integrate them more into the Section. Dr. Potter suggested ambassadorship with SMC, and some other organizations, maybe the Civilian Servants, not necessarily the military personnel. Dr. Lui explained some of the previous interactions and issues with SMC. We had been trying hard to engage them, one main example was Dr. Roberta Ewart, who gave a talk in 2019 and said would like to engage, but became completely silent with our multiple attempts to contact / engage her. And the former Council Member Ricky Garcia from SMC had some confusing activities after leaving the council. He asked us to provide all the contact information of the attendees and speakers for the AIAA ASCEND, so he and SMC could build some Consortium for money and their own events/conferences. Got a "No" from AIAA HQ. And he asked the OC Section to provide the AIAA member contact information as well, along with some other activities. They were going to Stanford University, Silicon Valleys, and talking

about going on the stock market IPO (from news) etc. It was possible SMC might have changed their goals significantly. Another former SMC Council Member, Alvin Leung, demanded the free dinner in the Annual Awards dinner but it was made clear that year the council members needed to show up in certain percentage of the council meetings in order to have the free dinner. (He left the council after being denied for his asking for full coverage for his trip to RLC in Ohio in the summer of 2019.)

7:17 PM Dr. Ken Lui, Events and Programs Chair Updates:

- Review of the recent events:

- June 12: The speaker Prof. Rajkumar Pant gave an interesting presentation on India's Aerospace Development. He was recommended by Dr. Dan Raymer of AIAA. Prof. Pant has been publishing papers in AIAA. There have been many interesting aerospace development in India, including going to the Moon and Mars, human spaceflight etc. Many major aerospace companies world have set their presence in India. There are also quite some indigenous activities and organizations. Namaste!

- June 17: We had fun e-Happy Hour on a Game like platform. We have been testing this for future possible event development. Some aerospace companies have been hiring game development specialists , and the outlook / format could attract some people, especially during the Pandemic. A middle school student, a genius, showed his Space Shuttle model design (he showed some CAD designs and 3D printed models in the some of the previous events). An attendees had been very enthusiastic about Mars imagery, and he shared some of the fun images from his website, which automatically download the Perseverance images from Mars and applied with the filter he developed. It was fun.

- June 19: The Tuskegee Airmen / Juneteenth event was very interesting. We had very good people attending and the topic was exciting. Many touching stories about the Tuskegee Airmen. The discussion about the African American aerospace professionals and the related education have been very inspiring. Dr. Christianna Taylor was our Events/Program Chair a few years ago, and Dr. Puschell mentioned she went to Russia for a postdoc and then came back at some point. Dr. Barbara Shannon has been a STEM K-12 educator. We have good people hidden in our communities.

- June 26: We had a fun and informative event on this Annual Planetary Defense Workshop and Asteroid Exploration updates event. In addition to the very important topics like the Tunguska explosion in 1908, and the Chelyabinsk Meteor in 2013, we had talks about bolides, OSIRIS-Rex, DART etc. And we had the new hands-on exercises workshop on the NEO Deflection App (developed by the Aerospace Corp.) utilizing the Breakout Rooms features on Zoom. It was fun. And people like the naming of the teams like Asteroid Billionaire etc. We will continue to support and hold this and the related events.

- July 10: Dr. Bill Goodman gave an inspiring talk about coming back from personal difficulties (son's illness and career difficulties) and to the vibrant activities in materials for extreme space environments. He expressed that AIAA to him was like Star Trek in aerospace with very high respect and reputation. Dr. Swati Saxena demoed and explained the acquisitions of AGI STK and Phoenix Integration MBSE, which is the big shift in the aerospace industries and will bring great impacts on the aerospace communities, especially in the digitization. It's actually quite significant.

- Lists of upcoming events, and we have been doing those following the AIAA/Section goals, putting them into the daily practices. Briefing on the July 17 and July 20 events, with exciting and inspiring topics. July is very exciting with the Apollo 11, Vikings, and Richard Branson's/Jeff Bezos' going to space.

- JWST event(s) and Northrop Grumman S-Cafe / Field trips. 2 possible events on JWST coming up. It's said to be launched in the French Guiana in later October by ESA. The field trips in 2019 were fun and inspiring but stopped by the Pandemic. Checking on the issues with S-Cafe and the field trips, especially the COVID-19 situations seemed to be re-emerge, according to the news and the LA Public Health data.

- As Dr. Puschell recommended to increase the incentives and benefits for people to join AIAA

membership, we have increased the ticket price differences to \$3 dollars between AIAA member/non-members for online webinars, and \$10 difference (\$8 difference for students/educators) for AIAA members/non-members. Those are for the regular events in inexpensive places. For expensive places or more expenses, we will follow what Dr. Puschell recommended to adjust it case by case.

- Gary mentioned people were more committed if they paid for the tickets, and our members have the capabilities, but it's recommended to keep the price low for online events. Marilyn and Dr. Puschell also echoed that people are more committed for attending the events. Marilyn felt if they didn't attend, we still keep what they paid and add into the revenue. Gary recommended that the non-member rates can cover more the expenses. This is exactly the point of this price adjustment.

- We will keep watching the COVID-19 Pandemic situations, and go back to the in-person events when it's safe. The delta variants have caused the significant rise of the new COVID-19 cases etc. And the vaccination rates are still very low in some pockets and we don't know where people would be coming from. The vaccination effectiveness dropped after a few months and also only 70%-75% for the delta variants. And the asymptomatic transmission from un-vaccinated people, including teenagers / babies. Immune escape for the lambda, delta, and epsilon variants could be a concern. Missouri is not in good shape now. Some highly vaccinated countries have gone back to some the restrictions.

- Dr. Puschell will take back the Council Meeting invitation. Dr. Lui recalled previously it had been always from the Section Chair for many years, until later last year (November) it was somehow passed to Arianna.

- Dr. Puschell will keep monitoring the situations and see if we should have the in-person council meeting or still do the online meeting.

- Dr. Puschell mentioned about the Region VI award for Dr. Ken Lui in the AIAA ASCEND and the Section could have a free exhibition table in this upcoming ASCEND in Las Vegas, which is within our Section. Mr. Marty Waldman said it would be great.

7:45 PM Mr. Gary Moir, Technical Chair Updates: (Also leading Aero Alumni meetings)

- Gary asked if the Zoom link for the July 21 Aero Alumni meeting was provided and Dr. Lui said yes. (Gary found it the next day as his email system outlook had some changes that he didn't see it right away initially.)

- Gary expressed the nominating committee for the election didn't complete the job, as the suitable candidates were not found for certain positions. He suggested the council members to contact some possible names and see if they would be joining the council for those vacant positions. The election site is still open, too. Dr. Puschell mentioned Elliot from Raytheon, who was also a judge with us in the CSULB Region VI Student Paper Conference, could be interested, possibly in the Technical area.

- Will check with the Western Museum of Flight for possible return for the in-person Aero Alumni Meetings, if they are open for this meeting. They are partially open for activities but not fully open.

7:53 PM Mr. Marty Waldman, Las Vegas Chapter Chair Updates:

- Venues are not open yet. The event with Mr. Francis Gary Powers Jr. in November will be in a Museum in Las Vegas.

- Marty met with Ms. Andrea Diamond and discussed with the K-12 Outreach (possibly virtually) there in Las Vegas.

7:56 PM Dr. Seth Potter, A-MAN OASIS ALF Ambassador Updates:

- NSS Annual ISDC Conference (June 24-27) online was mentioned. The next one will be in National Landing, VA, near Washington D.C., in 2022, Dallas, TX in 2023, and back in Los Angeles, CA in 2024. They are considering to go back in person. Apollo 15 Anniversary on July 31.

- Cubesat competition with XISP-inc. On the NASA CubeQuest Challenge.

- Dr. Potter remains as she President of the L.A. Chapter of NSS – the OASIS.

- ALF is looking into a Space Shuttle event or possible recording. If anyone knows some workers who would be interested in participating in this, please contact Dr. Potter. ALF is also looking to get into a better finance situation and also accept donation.

- A-MAN / Cape Town Space Society: Dr. Hal and Bettye Walker have been staying in South Africa, and keeping on virtual activities.

- Dr. Potter suggested things like the essay contest, which is not necessarily technical but just related, could still be beneficial. Also the workforce development and reaching out to the broader community, making the society more scientific-literate. Giving people more contexts than the hardware/software might be more important.

8:05 PM Call for Meeting Adjourn:

- Dr. Puschell thanked everyone for joining this council meeting. He will send out the council meeting notice for the August meeting. Have a good month. It's a big time. There might be a schedule conflict with the September meeting but he will figure it out.