Phoenix Section AIAA Status

If you have been with AIAA for a while you probably know that we elect new local officers (known as the Council) for the Phoenix Section every Spring. This year we had open spots for Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and two at-large members. We sent out a couple of emails to all local members (this email list, including you) calling for nominations and we got zero responses. Perhaps the pandemic has disrupted people’s routine such that they ignored the email, but frankly, with this stay-at-home mode it is easier than ever to participate in local AIAA activities. But with no nominations, it is not really possible to have an election, so that process is being suspended.

The Phoenix Section Council had a conference call Monday evening (April 13) and coupled with some other discussions we came up with a plan for the near future.

The Council will continue with the staff we’ve had for the past year with a couple of exceptions. Our by-laws allow the Council to replace members who have resigned. Joe Scroggins, our Vice-Chair, moved out of the Phoenix area last summer and he has offered to resign. He will be replaced by Scott Fouse, a long time AIAA member who has quite a bit of AIAA experience on the corporate level. Our Treasurer, Scott Wertel, has acknowledged he is not the right person to be Treasurer at this time due to his travel commitments, so we will revert to Garrick Williams, who never quite left the position. Mike Mackowski will continue as chair but expect him to look for new faces and to delegate a lot.

Here is a summary of the officers for 2020-21.

Elected Positions

Chair Mike Mackowski

Vice Chair Scott Fouse

Treasurer Garrick Williams

Secretary Rick Kale

At Large Keith Jenkins

At Large Eric Nichols

At Large Joenglae Kim

At Large Dennis Barbeau

Committee Chairs, etc. (appointed)

YP Garrick Williams (looking for a replacement)

Public Policy open

Technical Keith Jenkins

K-12/STEM Brianna Grembowski (looking for a replacement)

Communications Brent Ruttle

ASU Student Chair Omar Alavi

ASU advisor Tim Takahashi

The Section had a virtual meeting on April 8 on the topic of dealing with the unexpected as it relates to your career path. I thought it went pretty well. About 17 people joined in using a Zoom account provided by AIAA HQ. We invited some other groups and had participants from the Vertical Flight Society and AIAA Tucson.

With the stay-at-home mode forced on us by the pandemic, this actually creates an opportunity to get good at using these on-line networking tools. With the long-term trend of poor attendance at traditional meeting, things have been moving in this direction anyway. Let’s take advantage of the situation and learn from it.

We are always looking for new people to get involved. With the “new normal’ upon us for a while, we really need new ideas and energy. Now that we have a plan for the make-up of the Council, we can move on to planning another virtual event, probably a happy hour of some sort. Contact us if you want to help.

Thanks,

Mike Mackowski

Phoenix Section Chair

4/16/20