AIAA LA-LV Section Council Meeting Minutes

AIAA LA-LV Section Council Meeting March 12, 2024, 6:00 PM PDT

– Hybrid Conducted

Meeting Location: Lawndale Library/ Google Meet

Attendance: X – Absent; A -Attended; V-Vacancy

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Council Member, Council Position</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Dr. Ken Lui, Section Chair</td>
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<td>2 Lynn Jenson, Treasurer</td>
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<td>3 Courtney Best, Secretary</td>
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<td>4 Dr. Seth Potter, Ambassador</td>
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<td>5 Marty Waldman, Las Vegas Chapter Chair</td>
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<td>6 Sherry Stukes, Membership Chair</td>
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<td>7 Ian Clavio, Education Chair</td>
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<td>8 Arpine Ovsepyan, STEAM K-12 Outreach</td>
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<td>9 Daniel Scalese, Public Policy Chair</td>
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<td>10 Jeremy Robins, Career and Workforce Development Chair</td>
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<td>11 Luis Cuevas, Young Professionals Chair</td>
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<td>12 Gary Moir, Technical Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Dr. Ken Lui, Events and Program Chair/Newsletter Editor</td>
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ADDITIONAL GUEST- Pedro Rendon (Chair, AIAA CSULB Student Branch), Nitish Chennoju (SpaceX, listen-in, interested in joining the Council)

6:06 PM- Meeting Called to Order by Dr. Ken Lui, Section Chair

  o Welcome all. Thank you for joining us today for the AIAA Los Angeles Section Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

6:07 PM- Secretary- (Courtney Best (Absent), Dr. Ken Lui on behalf of Courtney)

  o Meeting minutes for the September, October, November, and January council meetings were approved in February Council Meeting by 5 Council Members. Others didn’t attend or respond. The ones for the February and March (today) council meetings will be ready soon.
  
  o Courtney hasn’t been responding. We will see how it goes.

6:08 PM- University / Collegiate Chair Updates (Ian Clavio) – Part I:

  o AIAA LA/LV Student Branch Mini-Conference 2024
• Link to mini-conference photos: https://www.aiaa-lalv.org/blogs/2024-blogs/2024-february/2024-february-23
• It was a great turnout! All professional speakers and student branches did a great job in their presentations.
• Approximately sixty total attendees attended this year’s conference!
• We were fortunate to have SpinLaunch support this mini-conference with the presentation, tour, and conference venue. SpinLaunch is pretty much the big highlight for this mini-conference.
• Hopefully this mini-conference will help the section form a partnership to collaborate in our future AIAA LA/LV Section events.
• Feedback from the AIAA CSULB Student Branch:
  ▪ What do you like about this mini-conference? Did you learn something from the speakers and SpinLaunch tour?
    ➢ We thought it was great. Awesome host at SpinLaunch. The keynote speaker’s presentation was really informative and inspiring to explore. Our members were pleased to have spoken and learn from new people!
  ▪ What are some things on which we should improve?
    ➢ Not sure
  ▪ Any recommendations or comments on what you would like to see in next year’s mini-conference?
    ➢ We liked how this year’s venue was also the location of the tour. And being from Long Beach, obviously having it in Long Beach was a plus for us.
• Feedback from the AIAA UCLA Student Branch:
  ▪ The tour was great! We learned a lot about SpinLaunch as well as about the aerospace industry in general.
  ▪ The speakers were all great—very interesting subjects.
  ▪ I liked how the discussion and presentations were representative of AIAA’s values! Very inspiring!
  ▪ Can’t think of much to improve on!
• CSULB Student Branch Updates:
  • Long Beach Aviation, SharkSat, ESRA (rocket team), in good progresses.
  • General Branch activities, quite active!
  • CSULB SharkSat Crowdfunding campaign: See below for the CUSLB Branch Chair Pedro Rendon’s report.
• Other Branches: will resume after the presentation (SharkSat).

6:13 PM- AIAA CSULB Student Branch SharkSat Crowdfunding Updates (Pedro Rendon, moderated by Ian Clavio)
  • CSULB SharkSat Crowdfunding campaign
    • The SharkSat team is launching their very first student-built satellite into space!
• Their CubeSat project aims to tackle blue light pollution and provide valuable data to educational non-profits.
• They’re currently running a crowdfunding campaign to support their mission, and every contribution brings them one step closer to launch. Check out their flyer and consider supporting their initiative. Your contribution makes a universe of difference! [https://lnkd.in/gkVe9DNT](https://lnkd.in/gkVe9DNT) (Link to the crowdfunding page.) As of March 12, there were $375 donations with four donors. 19 days left from March 12. (March 31 is the deadline).

6:23 PM- University / Collegiate Chair Updates (Ian Clavio) – Part II:

o UCLA Student Branch Updates
  • Boeing Women in Engineering panel!
    ▪ Women who work on satellites will answer questions about aerospace engineering, internships, and more! Open to all students interested!
  • Field Day on Saturday *Happened 3/9*
  • Presented to Industry Advisory Board for UCLA Samueli School of Engineering
  • Working on planning workshops for next quarter
    ▪ Each project team teaches their expertise to the other project teams.
  • Working on succession planning *Education Chair Notes*

o USC Student Branch
  • No new updates from the USC Student Branch for the past month.

o UNLV
  • The AIAA UNLV student branch requested reimbursement assistance from the AIAA LA/LV Section for transportation to and from the 2024 AIAA LA/LV Student Branch Mini-Conference.
  • The student branch took the time over to travel from Nevada to California just to attend the conference.
  • Their expense: $50 ON GAS
  • Ian showed the $50 receipt for the gas for the trip Christian and Francisco made on Feb. 23 for the mini-Conference. Lynn said it was fine.
  • Ken asked Ian for the address for mailing the check and the title for the check. Ian said he would get the information.
  • Gary asked if the Council needs to have a vote on this spending. Ken indicated it’s a smaller amount compared to other spending, and therefore no need for the Council review and vote. In the past, when the finance was ok, each (committee) Chair would have a certain approved amount after the annual budget review. With the budget of each committee, there was no need for a Council review/vote, if the Treasure/Section Chairs approved it. For large amounts not within the budget, it will need review by the Council, if Treasurer/Section Chair fell there were possible funds available for further consideration, though generally it didn’t happen. Since we have been doing our best to save, due to HQ financial deficits, there was really no budget allocated. The situation has been improving, but we still need to be cautious.

o Requests from Branches:
No request from the 4 University Student Branches.

6:33 PM- Treasurer Updates (Lynn Jenson):

- The Section has been continuing the efforts to conserve and save.
- We got $1,000 from HQ for the Feb. 23 Section University Student Branches Mini-Conference.
- In February, the total income was $1878.74. The total expense was $2,422.55 (including two major events on the 23rd of February, and on the 5th of March (U-2 Spy-plane), other outreach/programs/storage etc.) Good programs deserved the funded spending.
- Total balance = $93,592.98 (as of 3.12.2024) (compared to $94,902.21 on 2.13.2024)
- We will continue to save. We managed to get back to $90-$100K as Jeff (Dr. Puschell) had been expecting. We finally reached the goal last month in February and will continue to be conscious of it and do our best to keep it growing gradually.
- Ken added that the Advisor, Dr. Jeff Puschell, indicated that as long as the Section budget is seeing gradual increase, it’s ok to be more flexible in spending, without losing money overall along the way.

6:38 PM- Young Professionals Updates (Luis Cuevas)

- Overview of February 23rd YP Mixer:
  - Great evening after a successful student mini-conference!
  - Ken mentioned some attendees could have missed the spot as the venue “The Hangar” Food Hall didn’t allow private area for a full banner or sign. A portable banner/sign has been in design/product for future suitable scenarios.
- Future Young Professional Mixers/Happy Hours:
  - Will try to do it at least one every month.
  - Mainly held at Common Space Brewery.
  - Can be focused on networking, ideation, professional development, etc.
- Mentorship Program:
  - Aimed at connecting young professionals in the SoCal area to professional development opportunities.
  - Similar programs at the national level exist, but I believe a local program will be more effective at continuous improvement for program participants.

6:45 PM- Public Policy Updates (Daniel Scalese)

- Dan looked into the Public Policy email Ken forwarded from AIAA HQ:
  - AIAA Aerospace Connection (APC in July):
    - Dan asked if the trip would be reimbursed, though it might not be that much so he could afford to. Ken said he would try to check with HQ and do the best to secure the funds, if available.
  - Ken mentioned on the AIAA Volunteer Leadership Meeting with AIAA HQ, CEO Dan Dumbacher answered Ken for the Capitol Visit Day (CVD) issue. The CVD is no more,
and the Domain Initiative (Aeronautics, R&D, Space) that started in 2021 was the new Public Policy major activity or guideline.

- Dan mentioned the efforts on the Launch Safety Investigation event / conference with USC – (AIAA Los Angles) Section:
  - His director, he, and Ken had a telephone conversation on Feb. 28, and it went well. And Dan visited the USC Student Rocket Team to see the March 5 Student Launch Safety Investigation Project, and Ken asked Dan for some descriptions about it.
  - Ken talked to some of the persons Dan introduced in their USC lab during a workshop there, for possible preparation for this Section meeting with USC.
  - Dan asked if the person Ken mentioned in SpaceX who might be interested could show up in a Section Mixer or event so the discussion could be engaged. Ken said he would try to arrange, though SpaceX people might be a little cautious (secretive), possibly to protect the company. Nevertheless, Dan said it’s ok. Ken said this would be very important and interesting, and we should try to have the first event ASAP. The analogy would be the former Responsive Space Conference by the Section with Dr. James Wertz, which made Responsive Space the center topic of aerospace (satellite launch/military space), from a not-very-well-known status.

- Dan indicated he would stay on the Section Council for 2024-2025 for the Public Policy Chair.
  - Ken thanked Dan for the confirmation. And indicated that the Public Policy is a main “product” for AIAA, as AIAA is not a company that produces hardware like rockets, satellites, aircraft, etc. Public Policy is the strength of AIAA.

6:57 PM- Nitish Chennoju (Guest, listen-in)

- Nitish said hello and mentioned the Starship’s March 14 early morning launch and wished the best for it.
- Nitish expressed in joining the Council and Ken asked him to provide a face photo and a short bio for the considerations. Ken sent Nitish the bylaw officer functions and asked if Nitish had any questions and wished to chat with Nitish about the possible position(s).
- Nitish attended the U-2 Spy-plane event in S-Café on March 5 and met Jeff, Lynn, Gary, and other attendees. He was happy about that event.

7:00 PM- Ambassador Updates (Dr. Seth Potter):

- NSS’s ISDC Conference in Los Angeles, CA this year.
  - 2024 May 23 for 3 days, in a hotel around LAX.
  - Exhibition Table $399 ($400)
    - Seth asked if the Section could pay for this.
    - Ken indicated over the past many years the Section never paid to exhibition. The previous ISDC we had a table by a former council member Alvin Leung, and it was free, too. Ken asked Seth to help ask NSS to waive the fee.
    - Ken always asked the AIAA National Office to waive the fees for Section exhibition table in ASCEND. The same for the previous AIAA SPACE Conference, we were always given free a booth. And previously Seth had
been saying it’s free. Seth will check. And Seth has been mentioning it for free in the past few months. It suddenly became $399 ($400) today.

- **A-Man STEM Institute**
  - Drs. Walker are in South Africa again.
  - Ken asked Seth to help relay the greetings. Dr. Hal Walker spoke in the Section’s Apollo 11 Moon Landing 50th Anniversary in 2019 in Santa Monica, CA. And Ken / Drs. Walkers had exhibition tables together next to each other in an event a few years ago.

### 7:11 PM- Las Vegas Updates (Marty Waldman):

- **ASCEND / AVIATION in Las Vegas:**
  - Ken indicated it has been approved by HQ for the same size and space as in October last year.
  - Gary mentioned Mr. Mike Ciminera would be in AVIATION/ASCEND to present a talk based on his new book on Northrop Grumman aircraft designers, published by AIAA last year (2023).
  - Marty mentioned he would likely be able to support, along with Andrea (Ms. Diamond)

- **Lt. Governor and the Las Vegas Spaceport:**
  - Marty mentioned he and Andrea had been collaborating with the Nevada Lt. Governor on the related issues on the Las Vegas Spaceport he has been working on.
  - They will try to see if any possible ASCEND presentation or activity could be arranged with him.

- Marty continues to explore the possible agenda and activities with interested people / members there in the Las Vegas / Clark County areas.

### 7:25 PM- Technical Updates (Gary Moir):

- **Mike Ciminera’s book:**
  - Northrop Grumman ordered quote a lot of copies for their gift shop.
  - Gary asked about the possibility of a possible award for Mike Ciminera. Ken indicated an award is different from recognition. The latter is more feasible as we have been recognizing members for things like membership anniversaries, membership advancement, other awards etc. An award will need to be announced and set up. And Mike is already working on the application for the AIAA Book Award for 2025 as Mr. Kevin Burns had mentioned.

- **Wright Flyer Replica project in Riverside:**
  - Gary asked if a possible recognition for him and the person who supported some of the funds for the project is possible. Ken said it can be reviewed and asked Gary to provide a write up for reviewing the recognition, as well as for newsletter articles.

- **Aero Alumni (retirees from aerospace) Meeting:**
  - The Aero Alumni Meeting last month was on Valentine’s Day.
  - Tomorrow March 13 the Aero Alumni Meeting will be held in the Olive Garden in Torrance and also for online attendees.
Technical activities are the cores of the AIAA, and everything is surrounding the Membership, as Ken echoed what Gary mentioned about the technical issues.

7:40 PM- Membership Updates (Sherry (Absent), Ken Lui on behalf of Sherry):

- Ken mentioned Sherry had been doing wonderfully for the Section membership efforts. We have been telling the HQ about the inconsistency in the membership data and reminded them to help provide templates for the renewal reminder, which was finally provided.
- HQ has been having some issues with IT and membership data. We worked it out and were able to provide our own charts. The Membership Charts report was also emailed to all council members on March 13.
- We also built the Council Team webpage with the daily/weekly/monthly membership updates, along with other information for easy reference before the Membership Chair report charts in the monthly Council Meeting. [https://sites.google.com/aiaa-lalv.org/aiaa-la-council-for-2023-2024/home](https://sites.google.com/aiaa-lalv.org/aiaa-la-council-for-2023-2024/home). It was sent to the general Council Member on March 11 from the Section Chair, for the general Council notices and Team efforts. Another site is also being assessed. AI reports and other features are also being assessed. If there is any feedback, please feel free to mention it.
- Membership numbers showed fluctuations up and down, delayed renewal and those forgot to renew, plus the graduated students.
  - Total: 1043 (3/12) vs. 1063 (2/12) vs. 1038 (2/5) (Note: 1064 (3/16))
  - Professionals: 691 (3/12) vs. 699 (2/12) vs. 695 (2/5) (Note: 695 (3/16))
  - Educators: 61 (3/12) vs. 60 (2/12) vs. 60 (2/5) (Note: 78 (3/16))
  - University Student: 203 (3/12) vs. 220 (2/12) vs. 199 (2/5) (Note: 203 (3/16))
  - High School Students: 78 (3/12) vs. 74 (2/12) vs. 74 (2/5) (Note: 78 (3/16))
  - Associates: 10 (3/12) vs. 10 (2/12) vs. 10 (2/5) (Note: 10 (3/16))
- For the expired / expiring members, it’s better to go with the person connections to remind them. The names were listed on the membership charts.
- Ken has been doing great jobs outreaching to different locations, universities, and schools.
- YP (Luis) has been doing so as well.
- Education (Ian) also did the best to help the Student Branches and keep them interested, help with recruiting, and remind them for YP discount. For graduating students.
- AIAA HQ showed the “Customers” along with AIAA members. But they would not provide data or information for those customers for the LA Section for possible recruitment. We will do our best for this category, as a good way to enhance membership and connections.
- The demo was shown for the new software Ken showed to Jeff (Dr. Puschell) 3 years ago. Now we have added further data, and it can show the geographical analysis and information for the membership. It will help with the membership engagement and activity planning as well. Initial results from another software were also shown. More software features and other possibilities are being evaluated as well and will be demonstrated with beautiful charts and impressive analysis. The Section can manage the membership in our responsible area.

7:45 PM Section Chair Updates (Dr. Ken Lui):
(Not much time for the full report. The Section Charts were also emailed on March 13 for the file.)

Election 2024-2025:
- Gary asked about it and Ken asked if he could join the Election Committees. Gary agreed. Ken showed the tentative candidates and those potential ones that he had been talking to. The Charts in the Section Chair report included a page of this.
- Lynn had agreed for being on the Election Committee several weeks ago. Ken has been checking and seeing if Sherry can join again as well. Gary/Ken mentioned more for the committee members were welcome, but better not for even number members for the possible tie-breaker just in case.
- Ken indicated that the first announcement will be sent out after March 20 for the nomination. The following bylaws for the 21 days minimum, the second announcement, the ballots, aiming for early-mid April, to finalize the election by early-mid May. Ken emphasized again what was suggested by the Advisor, Dr. Jeff Puschell, that all the Council Members, especially the committee chairs, need to attend the Section Council Meeting regularly, for training and for reporting. It’s a good experience to learn more about the operations and membership of AIAA. It’s good for future leadership and for smooth operations. Other functions actually can be more supported (co-chairs or the other possibilities). If one really cannot commit to attending to Council Members regularly, it’s better for the co-chair positions with more flexibility. In short, attending the Council Meetings regularly is important. Other issues / tasks can be discussed.

Awards Dinner and the Section (Technical Excellence Awards):
- Tentatively it’s aimed for Thursday, May 2nd (if not available, Wednesday, May 1st)
- Several locations are being reviewed, and it will be determined soon based on pricing, food, and location.
- Victus Nox from the Millennium Space Systems (El Segundo, CA) is the main candidate (a SmallSat for a Space Force Mission of the same name), submitted in early February with the information emailed to the Council Members on March 6. It’s good also to rekindle the Responsive Space attention, as the Section was the epicenter for Responsive Space, with the Responsive Space Conference with Dr. James Wertz many years ago. Ken asked that the responses be provided by March 20. The Intuitive Machines’ IM-1 Mission with the Odysseus lander was ok, but it did not fully demonstrate the successful mission and the technical level dropped with the tipped lander. B-21 was classified, and it is hard for us to know if it’s technical accomplishments or business / operational improvements. E-aircraft has not reached the maturity state. We will also wait for the Starship’s 3rd test launch on March 14. (Note on March 17, due to the disintegration after the successful launch to the intended altitude, it has not demonstrated the safety for the human mission, which was mainly for the human spaceflight. Therefore, Jeff (Dr. Puschell) suggested we wait for the next year so Starship can really reach the success for the safe spaceflight for human.)

Section Team webpage:
Ken sent an email about the new AIAA LA Section General Council and Friends / Audience for getting people together and informed.

- It contains the updates for the Section membership charts.
- Feedback is welcome and other features will be added. Further software and the team page testing are being conducted and will be notified.

Ken explained it’s like re-orientation. It’s very important for people to understand what AIAA is. It’s better to understand / learn more than doing a lot of things that might impact negatively. Even if not doing much, one can get trained / better equipped, and more familiar with AIAA, for further LA-LV Section volunteering, or maybe later with Regional or National activities. Leadership is very important. And Ken showed the webpage AIAA HQ put together for AIAA Volunteer training and agreement. He also talked about the AIAA Volunteer Leadership Townhall. (And the PDF file also sent to the Council Members on March 13.)

- Non-profit/non-biased
- Advertisement vs participation
- paid-donation ads space/page in newsletters.

(Communication) 2024 February Newsletter:
- The February newsletter was compiled, and the notice was sent out on March 1.

(Section Conference(s))
- The Section has been working on two conferences, the Responsive Space Conference and the one for the Launch Safety Investigation.
- We’ve been testing for several mini-Conferences. More good possibilities for Section conferences are happening.

(AIAA ASCEND/AVIATION)
- Gary suggested that the event be posted in the newsletter as it’s getting closer. Ken will arrange it.
- Travel support is not provided by HQ. But HQ did get the Exhibitor tickets (2) and additional badges for last October with special allowance. Highly appreciated.

(Code of Conducts)
- Participation vs. Advertisement: Participation is the best and proper way for engaging the communities and members. We are not an advertising agent.

7:53 PM- Events and Program Chair Updates (Dr. Ken Lui, Acting):

(There was really no time left for the Events/Program reports. The file of the charts was sent to all the Council members on March 13, the next day after the Council Meeting)

(February 21) AIAA LA Outreach to Crafton Hills College (Career Day)
- Good outreach activity for recruitment as well.

(February 23) AIAA LA University Student Branches mini-Conference
- (Ian did wonderfully. The Education Chair report talked about this already).
- Wonderful event with all the positive feedback and happiness with a lot praises.

(February 23 @ 5 PM) AIAA LA Section Young Professionals Mixer
(Luis did well, too, and reported it in the YP Chair report earlier.)

- (March 5) Spy Pilot, Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 Incident, and a Controversial Cold War Legacy
  - Jeff (Dr. Puschell) did the impossible and made it happen with S-Café in Northrop Grumman Space Park.
  - A great event and a lot of positive feedback / praises.

- (March 7) AIAA LA Outreach for the Bell Garden K-12 Science Fair Judging
  - (Monica Maynard helped.)

- (March 9) SEEING THE FUTURE: How To Use Rapid Collaborative Visualization to Convert Concepts to Capabilities in Innovation Ecosystems
  - Very interesting.

- More efforts were spent on getting more interesting venues, reasonable pricing, etc.

- Upcoming events:
  - (2024 March 23) SPACE ENVIRONMENTS SEMINAR—PART II
    - RSVP and Information: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/q9rrx4m/lp/f3f51b22-984e-4b0a-9698-421c54b93af7
    - Hybrid for on-line and in-person attendance. On-line presentation.
  - (2024 May 2 (TBA), or May 1) AIAA LA Section Awards Dinner 2024
    - (Also refer to the Section Chair report.)
    - More interesting events and outreach activities with recruitment are in progress.

- Pandemic- COVID-19 case numbers seems to be lower locally and nationally in February-early March. We will keep doing hybrid activities but increasing the in-person meetings and gradually reducing the online meetings. We will continue to pay attention to safety and health/hygiene issues.

- Keep everyone happy and stay with AIAA for the rest of their life.

Wrapped up at 7:55pm. “It’s a great and fun meeting,” as some council members commented.

7:55 PM- Meeting adjourned:

Gary Moir moved to adjourn. Seconded by Marty Waldman.