

AVIATION TECHNICIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

March 29, 2026

The Aviation Technician Education Council held its quarterly board meeting via Teams.
Those in attendance included—

Attended	First	Last	ATEC Title	Company
O	Jared	Britt	Vice President	Aviation Education Academy
X	Sean	Gallagan	Director	Aviation Workforce Solutions
X	Jim	Hall	President	WSU Tech
X	Mark	Holloway	Director	Aviation Institute of Maintenance
O	Gary	Hoyle	Past President	Epic Aviation Academy
X	Crystal	Maguire	Exec Director	ATEC
X	Tarra	Ruttman	Ops Manager	ATEC
X	Michael	Sasso	Secretary/Treasurer	AIMs Community College
X	Sheryl	Oxley	Director	Tulsa Technology Center
X	Scott	Sykes	Director	U.S. Aviation Academy
O	Greg	Emerson	Director	American Airlines
X	Suzanne	Markle	Director	Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics
X	Scott	Ferris	Director	United Airlines
X	David	Blanton	Director	Liberty University
X	Archie	Vega	Director	Horizon Air
X	Gillette	Samms	Director	Alabama Community College System
X	Jeremy	Rangel	Director	Duncan Aviation
X	Denise	Hensley	Director Elect	Putnam City Schools
X	Kelly	Filgo	Guest	Choose Aerospace
X	Roger		Guest	Alaska University - Fairbanks
X	Randy	Duvall	Guest	Bombardier
X	Darwin	Goodeman	Guest	Duncan Aviation
X	Frank	Johnson	Guest	Airbus
X	Victor	Liriano	Guest	Airbus
X	Bryan		Guest	Dallas College
X	Stephen	Gallagan	Guest	
X	Rob	Cush	Guest	AMFA
X	Teresa	Pinkston	Guest	Tulsa Tech
X	Rhonda	Cooper	Guest	Spartan College
X	Jess	Hendricks	Guest	WSU Tech
X	Stormy	Sykes	Guest	US Aviation
X	Kevin	Marlow	Guest	Horizon Air
X	Ryan	Goertzen	Guest	AAR
X	Kayler	Randall	Guest	Horizon Air
X	Marshall	Pryor	Guest	Portland Community College
X	Thomas	Laxson	Guest	Portland Community College

President J. Hall called the meeting to order at 12:30pm PT. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2026, meeting. The motion passed without objection.

Finance

The budget continues to perform well and is currently trending higher than anticipated. This increase is largely driven by higher membership dues and strong conference registration. Notably, there has been minimal resistance from members regarding the dues increase, with only one member indicating they would not renew as a result.

Accounts receivable is slightly elevated, which is typical for this time of year due to outstanding conference registrations and remaining membership invoices. These are expected to be collected in the next few months.

The ATEC Academy session in Portland exceeded capacity, resulting in higher-than-projected income for that cohort. On the expense side, there are no unusual or unexpected costs at this time. Overall, the organization remains on track to meet or exceed budget expectations for the conference and fiscal year.

Annual Conference

Conference registrations are slightly lower compared to last year. This may be partially attributed to the strong attendance in Norfolk, where AIM hosted and brought a significant number of participants.

Despite the slight dip in registrations, sponsorship and exhibitor participation has increased, with one additional sponsor and three additional exhibitors compared to last year. As a result, total conference income is up approximately 10% year-over-year.

Planning for the 2027 Annual Conference in Wichita is already underway, with Bombardier confirmed for the presenting sponsor. ATEC staff will plan site visits to Wichita and Denver (potential 2028 host) over the summer.

Operations

Justin Benard (Moore Norman Technology Center) has stepped down due to accepting a position with the FAA, leaving one open AMTS membership seat. Nominations for this position are currently open and will remain so through the summer.

A draft member survey, developed in collaboration with Oliver Wyman (ATEC's partner on the Pipeline Report), has been included in the meeting materials. Board members are asked to review the survey and provide feedback prior to distribution, which is planned for after the conference.

There was discussion around improving data collection on individuals transitioning from military service who may be eligible for certification.

Directors provided feedback on the draft member survey:

- S. Markle recommended revising the graduate employment question. C. Maguire will update it to reflect outcomes at 90 days post-graduation, including employment status and job offers.
- Regarding Question 26, it was suggested to either ask respondents to report how many instructors fall within each salary range, or convert responses to hourly equivalents. C. Maguire recommended using an hourly-based rate question alongside a separate question for average annual salary.
- D. Blanton suggested adding a question focused on instructor retention.
- S. Sykes recommended including “financial barriers” as an option in Question 23.
- T. Laxson suggested adding an option in Question 25 for individuals entering from industry backgrounds.

Choose Aerospace

K. Filgo reported on enrollment, dashboard updates, and pathway partnerships. Currently, there are 1,207 students enrolled across 51 programs in 23 states. Additional enrollments are expected for the spring semester, with projections nearing 1,500 students by the end of the academic year.

The program dashboard is undergoing updates to correct errors, streamline content, and improve usability. Revised coursework will be pushed out on August 1.

A list of Pathway Partners has been published on the website. These partners include schools and industry organizations offering employment opportunities, academic credit, scholarships, and other support for students completing the curriculum.

R. Goertzen provided an update on a recently implemented pricing restructure for both schools and vendors. These changes are intended to increase revenue and ensure long-term operational sustainability. Additionally, new industry partnership proposals have been developed to encourage support through sponsorships and scholarships. There was continued discussion regarding FAA part 147 schools that have not yet engaged with the program.

ATEC is preparing to request an FAA exemption that would allow students who complete the Choose Aerospace program, earn the ATEC credential, and hold ATEC membership (via a proposed new student membership category) to take the General Written Exam. Board members are asked to review the exemption request included in the board packet and provide feedback. The Choose Aerospace executive team plans to seek preliminary feedback from FAA leadership prior to formal submission.

An updated exchange agreement between Choose Aerospace and ATEC is in the board materials. Under the new fee structure, credentialing and Prepware access will be bundled into school fees, and ATEC will no longer receive a portion of those specific revenues. The agreement term has also been revised to two years.

R. Goertzen also shared an update on a Department of Labor grant application. Choose Aerospace is applying for approximately \$23 million to support the creation of 400 new apprenticeship opportunities across MRO facilities in the United States. The application deadline is Friday.

Regulatory

R. Cooper provided an update from the ACS working group. Over the past year, the group has conducted a comprehensive review of the ACS and developed revisions.

Updated draft materials will be available for discussion during breakout sessions on Tuesday. Following incorporation of stakeholder feedback, the group anticipates submitting the revisions to the FAA within the next 60 days.

Legislative

Registration for the annual Fly-In is now open on the website. This year's agenda is designed to focus on higher-level, executive discussions to avoid overlap with conference programming.

The Pipeline Report will be officially released on Capitol Hill during the Fly-In.

R. Cush provided an update on the workforce grant, noting that the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) release date continues to be delayed.

ATEC Academy

The Academy has already secured three session dates for 2026. The Portland cohort exceeded capacity, and additional cohorts are scheduled for June and September.

Membership

The membership numbers look good, we are at 83% renewal rate. There have been 10 new and returning members and we have 70% of the AMTS market share.

Good of the Order

J. Hall encourages board members to talk to new attendees this week.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM CT.