

AVIATION TECHNICIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

September 25, 2026

The Aviation Technician Education Council held its quarterly board meeting at the Yotel in DC. Those in attendance included—

Attended	First	Last	ATEC Title	Company
X	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	Consultant
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
X	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	Launch
X	Gillette	Samms	Director	Alabama Community College System
X	Jeremy	Rangel	Director	Duncan Aviation
X	Denise	Hensley	Director	Putnam City Schools
X	Kelly	Filgo	Guest	Choose Aerospace
X	Nicole	Gleaton	Comms Coordinator	ATEC
X	Laci	Elsheimer	Guest	Tulsa Tech
X	Francisco	Gonzalez	Director Elect	San Bernadino Valley College
X	Kayler	Randall	Guest	Horizon Airlines
X	Michael	Young	Guest	American Airlines
X	Phil	Ford	Guest	FedEx
	Nick	Fleming	Guest	FedEx
X	Amy	Moore	Guest	Aims Community College
X	Etain	Connor	Guest	FEAM Aero
X	David	Soucie	Guest	Spartan
X	Stormy	Sykes	Guest	U.S. Aviation Academy
X	Rob	Cush	Guest	AMFA
X	Mike	Basara	Guest	PIA

President J. Hall called the meeting to order at 8:14 am ET. A motion was made and

seconded to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2026, meeting. The motion passed without objection.

Director Elections

Over the last couple of months, the nomination committee executed interviews with each of the five nominated individuals for the open AMTS director position. At the conclusion of the interviews, the nomination committee has recommended Francisco Gonzalez of San Bernardino College to fill the available AMTS Director position.

The proposed officer slate also recommends electing David Blanton to Treasurer, Michael Sasso to Vice President, and Jared Britt to President. Jim Hall will serve as Previous Past President and ex officio on the Choose Aerospace Board.

There was a motion made and seconded to approve the slate of directors and officers as recommended by the nomination committee.

Greg Emerson, Scott Sykes, Suzanne Markle, and Sheryl Oxley will complete their first terms next year and are eligible to serve a second term. Sean Gallagan and Mark Holloway will complete their second terms in 2028. Directors nearing the end of their first terms will be contacted regarding their interest in serving a second term, with nominations proceeding through the Nominating Committee.

The nominating process was updated to require a letter of support from the nominee's organization upfront. The nomination form will also state that previous involvement with ATEC is required for board consideration.

Finance

The Board reviewed the Finance Report and proposed budget. Income was generally in line with projections, while net revenue exceeded budget. Membership retention exceeded 90 percent following the dues increase, compared with the 80 percent budget assumption. The Academy was fully subscribed and generated positive net revenue. Fiscal year-end reporting will take place in December.

The proposed budget reflects continued growth and expanded services, with no increase proposed for membership dues or conference registration. Four Academy cohorts of 15 students each are planned and registration is currently open. Academy expenses include a contract with Sean Glassberg and increased co-facilitator and mentor honorariums, while the program is expected to remain revenue positive. Future Academy hosts will complete a formal application and provide facilities and catering in exchange for a discount on registration.

Major expense changes include an increase in the management fee under ATEC's agreement with Maguire Law, which includes a \$50,000 base fee plus a percentage of revenue growth above the \$85,000 budget in place when the firm assumed

management of ATEC. Dues and subscriptions also reflect increased Novi costs and anticipated event management technology, including an event app and badge printing.

The Board also received an update on a WSU Tech-led grant involving ATEC, Choose Aerospace, AEA, Aims Community College, Calhoun Community College, Clemson, and other partners. Choose Aerospace funding will support updates to the existing curriculum and development of CAET modules, creating a progression from foundational electrical content into avionics training. This work will be coordinated with ongoing ACS revisions and updates to Choose Aerospace curriculum and handbooks.

There was a motion made and seconded to approve the budget as presented.

Operations

The 2026 Pipeline Report has been released, and development of the next annual survey will begin soon. Oliver Wyman will participate in the March Board meeting, and Board members were asked to consider potential survey questions and data points in advance. The availability of demographic data, including race and gender, was discussed in connection with grant funding requirements.

The Board reviewed proposed bylaw revisions addressing membership for Additional Training Locations, creation of an Affiliate Membership category, and an Individual Membership category. The Individual Membership category would, among other purposes, allow eligible ATEC credential students who do not otherwise qualify for membership to receive complimentary membership which will one day allow them to test for the General written exam if the exemption request is approved.

The Board directed management to make the conforming and administrative changes to the bylaws necessary to replace the existing Appendix A format, which reproduces prior and amended provisions, with a concise revision-history format identifying each revision, its adoption date, and a summary of the changes. The Board determined that this change is intended to streamline the amendment record and make the purposes and history of Bylaws revisions more readable and concise.

There was a motion made and seconded to approve the bylaw revisions as presented.

Legislative

The Board received an update on the Fly-In and legislative advocacy efforts. Participants held approximately 90 congressional meetings, highlighting the reported 25 percent increase in graduates and concerns that previously appropriated workforce grant funding has not been fully distributed by the FAA. The morning Pipeline Report presentation was well received, and inviting congressional staff to future briefing sessions was recommended. Discussions also included military transition initiatives, FAA reauthorization priorities, and a request to reduce constraints associated with workforce grant funding.

The Board discussed ways to strengthen materials and follow-up for future advocacy efforts. Suggestions included a one-page format presenting each issue as the problem, proposed solution, and specific ask; including relevant bill numbers; and reducing or defining industry acronyms that may not be familiar to congressional staff. Printed materials were recommended to supplement the event app. Staff noted that follow-up letters to congressional offices are routinely drafted after the Fly-In. Board members emphasized the importance of continued follow-up, particularly given the number of new congressional staff.

Annual Conference

Planning is underway for the 2027 Annual Conference in Wichita, hosted by WSU Tech and presented by Bombardier. The call for presentations remains open through October 1. Programming is expected to include a session on the NSF grant, and a Board activity is being planned for Saturday evening.

Denver is being considered for 2028, with plans to explore different activities and experiences for attendees. Prospective future locations remain under consideration, including Miami for 2029 and Denton around 2030. Tulsa also remains a prospective host location.

Choose Aerospace

Choose Aerospace is currently serving approximately 483 programs and 960 students across 23 states, including approximately 50 high schools, with 820 course completions reported approximately one month into the school year. Approximately 1,200 students participated during the previous academic year. Year-end survey responses from approximately 100 completers showed roughly one-third planning to attend an A&P school and another third entering the MRO workforce. Credential participation is increasing, with an approximately 60 percent overall success rate and a 75 percent pass rate, compared with an industry benchmark of approximately 70 percent.

Program growth has remained relatively flat following a sizable increase in program and implementation fees. The revised fee structure is intended to cover baseline operating costs through licensing revenue, supplemented by industry and grant support. Recent outreach has resulted in new and returning industry support, including American Airlines, US Aviation, PSA Airlines and AAR.

The Board discussed opportunities to expand program reach through industry engagement with state-level CTE directors. Teacher credential and qualification requirements can create barriers to high school implementation in states such as California and Texas, and leveraging state government affairs resources to address those barriers was suggested.

Choose Aerospace is also expanding into commercial workforce applications, with AAR using the curriculum in its Miami registered apprenticeship program and considering additional locations. The Board discussed replicating the model with other industry

partners and exploring internship funding. Additional discussion included connecting new Choose Aerospace schools with ATEC and industry partners, the existing SKILLED Nation scholarship partnership, and the need for more comprehensive documentation of Choose Aerospace operations.

Regulatory

The Board received an update on ATEC's petition for exemption to allow eligible Choose Aerospace students to take the FAA General knowledge test, with implementation hoped for next school year.

The Mechanic ACS Working Group received additional feedback and will reconvene before submitting its final recommendation to the FAA. ATEC has requested a two-year implementation period, and the issue may ultimately become part of FAA reauthorization.

The Board discussed potential future reauthorization priorities, including progressive certification and privileges associated with a General rating, as well as DME access and examiner capacity. Reports that Boeing is advocating for an additional Part 121-related certification or rating for A&P mechanics were also discussed, including concerns about implementation for the existing workforce.

ATEC Academy

The Board received an update on ATEC Academy, which is moving toward a quarterly schedule with cohorts of approximately 15 participants. The program combines a two-day in-person session with three remote sessions focused on Part 147 instruction, student engagement, generational and technology gaps, and school-specific challenges. An instructor handbook has also been developed.

The Academy serves instructors at varying experience levels and provides continued mentorship beyond the formal program. Participant feedback has been generally positive, and more self-paced work and fewer time demands have been incorporated in response to earlier feedback. Google Classroom remains the primary platform, although other engagement options may be explored.

No objections were raised to renewing Sean Glassberg's contract as lead instructor for ATEC Academy. Additional Choose Aerospace instructor training opportunities beyond the annual Tulsa training are also being explored.

Membership

Following the dues increase, ATEC achieved an 86 percent renewal rate and added 16 new members this year. ATEC currently represents approximately 76 percent of the 222 part 147 schools. Some membership changes reflect academic institutions transitioning into the part 147 category or organizations ultimately choosing not to pursue aviation programs.

Board members were encouraged to assist with outreach to non-member schools where they have existing relationships. Non-member schools will be offered complimentary membership for the remainder of 2026 when joining for 2027. Renewal outreach is also underway, with invoices forthcoming.

Good of the Order

Sheryl was named Chair of the Regulatory Committee. A human factors recommendation, led by Rob Cush, is expected to be submitted to the FAA by year-end and will propose advisory guidance for incorporating task management into instruction.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 PM ET.