



**GOVERNING COUNCIL**

Special Meeting of the SAMS Academy Governing Council on Friday, July 10, 2023  
via Zoom.us & In person at 6441 Ventana Road NW

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Farrah Nickerson, Laura Kohr, Mike Romo, Alex Carothers, and Larry Kennedy

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Roland Dewing, Mike Deveraux, and Jody Meyer

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Bridget Barrett, Amanda Catanzaro, and Lauren Chavez

**PUBLIC**

These minutes were approved on 7/28/2023

By a vote of 10 yes 0 no 2 absent 0 abstained

Larry Kennedy President

Roland Dewing Secretary

**I. Call to Order**

Larry Kennedy called to order the Special Meeting of the Governing Council for the Albuquerque Aviation Academy for July 10, 2023 at 3:33 p.m. on Zoom.us and in person.

**A. Roll Call**

Larry Kennedy asked Amanda Catanzaro to call roll. Amanda Catanzaro called Farrah Nickerson, Laura Kohr, Mike Romo, Alex Carothers, and Larry Kennedy.

**B. Adoption of the Agenda\***

Larry Kennedy asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mike Romo made a motion to approve the agenda. Farrah Nickerson seconded the motion. Larry Kennedy called for a roll call vote to approve the agenda. Amanda Catanzaro called Farrah Nickerson, Laura Kohr, Mike Romo, Alex Carothers and Larry Kennedy; all voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

**II. New Business Matters**

**A. Options for Acquiring a New Airplane Discussion**

Bridget Barrett presented that we currently have one plane and that plane is going to be down for an unknown amount of time to search for a wiring issue. Hired a new CFI, so now we have two on staff. We are currently looking at options for purchasing an additional plane.

Dr. Lauren Chavez shared options regarding new plane. Procurement must be followed and with a seller's market on Cessna 172's, it is going to be difficult to get a decent one, because flight schools are buying them up quickly.

Reviewed Aircraft Acquisition information sheet Cessna 172 vs Pipistrel Sinus/Virus. Currently 11 students waiting on the flight list, passed their general knowledge exam and ready for flight.

Pipistrel can be registered as glider or an airplane. It also allows us to add sport pilot license and glider pilot certificate.

Long term goal would be to purchase one Pipistrel now, sell the Cessna 172, and then purchase a second Pipistrel. That would allow us to have two of the same aircrafts. Sport pilot option would allow students who have ever been diagnosed with ADHD or any type of diagnosis that has not been denied medically by the FAA to get their pilot license without having to go through a very expensive medical clearance. A Pipistrel would also allow more students in the program at a younger age. Glider certificate can begin at 14 years old.

Our A&P, Dave Robertson does work on Pipistrel, so maintenance could continue as it is now.

Mike Romo asked about the glider function. It is a power glider.

Farrah Nickerson stated that procurement regarding the Diamond was very difficult. One issue at that time was having two different planes and training on one plane did not transfer to training on the other plane which made it very difficult for students. Concerned about not being able to sell the Cessna and then having two different plane issue happening again.

Mike Romo asked if the current Cessna could sustain us for the next 3 years, 5 years, or 10 years plus. Discussion around engine overhauls and expenses and time frames. Alex Carothers asked about any restrictions of class of aircraft. None.

Pipistrel has a 50 foot wing span, how is that going to fit in the hangar. There are long and short wings that can be removed and switched out quickly.

Getting a second plane would mean having to get a second hangar.

One down side of the Pipistrel could be that Cessna has 4 seats and Pipistrel only has 2. Doc shared that students don't get a lot out of riding in the back because it is very hard to see from back there.

Larry Kennedy asked what this does regarding the SIM. Doc states that the SIM is generic. It teaches instrument use but not the feel of flying. SIM is closer to Cessna vs Pipistrel. Larry Kennedy asked what about when our students move to higher education schools, what does moving away from the Cessna do for that? Doc states that other schools all use various planes. Each new plane takes a couple hours to get acquainted with, but wouldn't be different than now.

Acquisition of a plane will be an action item on the next agenda.

Question was asked about renting a plane in the interim if Hotel Kilo is out for extended time. Very costly!

Farrah Nickerson requested that board be given 3 or 4 alternatives available and see the analytics on each plane so they have all the information available at next meeting.

Larry Kennedy had a question about leasing a plane, does that have to go through RFP process? Amanda Catanzaro will get additional information regarding this for the next meeting.

### III. **Adjournment\***

Larry Kennedy called for a motion to adjourn. Farrah Nickerson made a motion to adjourn. Alex Carothers seconded the motion. Larry Kennedy called for a roll call vote to approve the agenda. Amanda Catanzaro called Farrah Nickerson, Laura Kohr, Mike Romo, Alex Carothers and Larry Kennedy; all voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

The special meeting of the Governing Council for the Albuquerque Aviation Academy adjourned on July 10, 2023 at 5:02 p.m.

