18 May 2016

Dear fellow members,

The election on the Constitution change closed on Monday, 16 May. Although we voted on both Board of Director (BOD) candidates and the Constitution change, we are not yet ready to share the results of the BOD election as all of the candidates must be contacted first. Knowing that many will be interested in the outcome of the Constitution question, I decided to send the results as soon as we received the official count from our third-party election vendor. During the eight weeks of the election more than 4,400 votes were cast—which is an impressive 20.65%, more than the 15% constitutionally required, and the largest voter engagement since 1983 when AIAA was considering a name change.

The membership has voted to accept the proposed Constitution change by a margin of 91.8% in favor and 8.2% against. That is obviously more than the 2/3 of votes cast needed to approve the proposed changes. There were 4,040 votes in favor of the Constitution change and 362 votes against the change. Sixty-six members abstained from voting on that question but voted for BOD candidates “down the ballot.” I am very encouraged that our membership recognizes the need for AIAA to evolve and has empowered the Board to continue with this important project.

This marks a new beginning for AIAA—one that will see us become more nimble and responsive to changes in our industry and community—thereby allowing us to serve you better. The changes will not be implemented immediately; the Board will be discussing a transition plan at the upcoming June meeting. It is likely that we will slowly, over a period of a few years, move into the new system. My successor, Jim Maser, will guide AIAA through the transition. He will continue to communicate frequently—and be transparent about—the progress of the evolution. We will also continue to update the Governance Project webpage.

I would like to thank everyone who voted and engaged on this important topic. Thank you also for your patience these past few months as we filled your email box with information and reminders—our goal was to hear from as many members as possible on this issue critical to the future of the Institute! For those of you who voted “yes” thank you for giving the Institute the ability to evolve. For those of you who voted “no” or did not vote, we still want to hear from you. I encourage you to contact your Regional or Technical Group Director, local leadership or any Board member and provide them with your comments. There is much work still to do and hearing from the membership is important. Thank you for your continued engagement in AIAA.

With regards,

Jim Albaugh
President, AIAA