

SAAC NOTAM

-Notice To Aviation Majors-

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSLETTER OF THE
JOHN D. ODEGARD SCHOOL OF AEROSPACE SCIENCES

Photo: Steven Lemke, @slem7_photo

ATC Hiring Reform

Billy Bowers, SATCA President

In the fall, Congress passed the ATC Hiring Reform Act of 2019. The bill was introduced by Senator John Hoeven (R-ND), who had recently met with Air Traffic faculty about the ongoing ATC staffing crisis. The bill was signed into Law in December of 2019. This bill increases the likelihood of CTI graduates getting hired by the FAA, something that will benefit current Air Traffic Management students, recent graduates, and help attract prospective students to UND.

ATC Hiring is a complex process that begins when the FAA posts an All-Source Announcement on the Federal Government's careers website, USAJobs.gov. Applications are typically open for 3 days, or until the FAA reaches the desired number of applicants. There are two pools of candidates. Veterans and graduates of FAA approved Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative schools (AT-CTI, or CTI for short) such as UND, are designated as Pool 1.

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To be in Pool 1, UND students must have already graduated with their degree in Air Traffic Control or Air Traffic Management. The remainder of applicants are designated Pool 2. Pool 2 consists of anyone with a 4-year college degree, 3 years of progressively responsible work experience, or a combination of college credits toward a 4-year degree along with part or full-time work to make up the difference. This combination allows many current UND ATC students to apply to hiring bids prior to graduation.

Applicants who meet these requirements are referred to take the pre-employment test, the Air Traffic Skills Assessment (ATSA). Tests are scored into 3 qualification categories: Best Qualified, Well Qualified, Qualified.

ATC Hiring Reform Continued

Those scoring below 70% are designated “Not Qualified”, are not eligible for further consideration, and must reapply to a later bid. The FAA then refers applicants who scored Best Qualified first, followed by Well Qualified, then Qualified. The FAA has not hired anyone beyond the first two categories. The FAA then selects from the referred applicants, beginning with Best Qualified. Selected applicants receive Tentative Offer Letters (TOL) and begin Medical and Security screening, and upon completion would then begin training to become certified controllers.



Photo: Steven Lemke, (@slem7_photo)

Previously, the FAA was required to refer a roughly equal percentage of candidates from both pools, +/-10% from either pool. The FAA confirmed the new process will take the pool of referrals, which will now only be composed of Best Qualified and Well Qualified scores and hire in the following order: Pool 1 Best Qualified, Pool 2 Best Qualified, Pool 1 Well Qualified, Pool 2 Well Qualified. This is good news for our CTI Graduate applicants. Statistically, all CTI applicants should receive TOL's in future bids provided they score Well Qualified or above.

The Odegard School Goes Online

Online aviation courses have been offered for a number of years, but the offering of online ground school is new to the Odegard School this semester. Previously, the TCO that UND operates under did not allow for online delivery. As spring break approached and concerns about COVID-19 grew, the aviation department began the process of obtaining a waiver. Working with the Fargo Flight Standards District Office and with guidance from the Airman Certification Branch in Washington, D.C., the aviation department was able to get permission to conduct online ground schools.

14 CFR 141.52 (d) outlines the conditions online ground schools have to comply with, which provided guidance for the aviation department seeking to deviate from the TCO. Along with the approval, there are a number of conditions that UND is bound to. The most noticeable is the use of various testing integrity tools such as lockdown browsers. Behind the scenes, the department had to allow for our Principal Operations Inspector to have remote access to each course. The POI works through the Fargo FSDO, and is responsible for inspecting and monitoring UND's compliance with our Part 141 Certificate.

Online Ground School Continued

Moving towards online ground school was forced by COVID-19, but don't be surprised to see online ground schools in the future. Since assuming the role of Assistant Chair of Flight Academics, Professor Lewis Archer has been interested in trying to make this a reality. This would likely be offered to supplement current offerings, rather than to replace them. This change would require the TCO to be updated, so it remains to be seen when we may begin to see more online flight courses in the future.

As always, if students have feedback or concerns about online classes, do not hesitate to reach out to us. Information on how to contact SAAC can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Faculty Spotlight: Zachary Waller

What made you want to get into aviation?

Aviation was a decision that I made late in high school. Even into late spring I was vacillating between admission offers to a wide variety of university programs. Several from my family have found themselves serving in the United States Air Force, at United Airlines, or flying cargo internationally with FedEx. These indirect connections certainly had a strong influence on my ultimate decision to start earning pilot certifications.



Photo: University of North Dakota

What is your educational background?

I was one of the first dozen to complete a Bachelor's of Science in Aeronautics out of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations major when it opened in our college. After that I was picked up within our department to work cooperatively with the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and their 711th Human Performance Wing, Warfighter Readiness Research Division. During this time, I would finish a Master's of Science in Aviation. This semester I am closing out some of the final coursework for completion of my Ph.D. in Education Foundations and Research with one graduate certificate in Quantitative Research Methods and another in Applied Economics.

What is your professional experience?

I've been fortunate to contribute to and participate in lots of opportunities related to the regional unmanned ecosystem.

Faculty Spotlight Continued

As part of my work with AFRL, I was sent to complete initial operator training for the Predator B at Customs and Border Protection's National Air Security Operations Center in Grand Forks. With the University, I contributed to proposal efforts resulting in the award of both the Northern Plains UAS Test Site in 2013 to the North Dakota Department of Commerce, the Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence (ASSURE) as the FAA UAS Center of Excellence in 2015, as well as the UND Aerospace Foundation award to support GA-ASI's Flight Training Academy in 2016 and CAE Inc.'s Air Crew Fundamentals Curriculum in 2017. I have been dabbling a bit in some independent consulting as bandwidth allows. Some of work in this arena has included the Airport Cooperative Research Program and the National Academies of Science.

Favorite aircraft you've flown?

Surely Customs and Border Protection's Predator B.

What classes do you teach?

I've had a few now, primarily related to unmanned aircraft and statistics...

- AVIT 126 Introduction to UAS Operations
- AVIT 238 UAS Operator Certification
- AVIT 485 Aviation Senior Capstone
- AVIT 399 Special Topics
- AVIT 506 Quantitative Research Methods

When you're not flying or teaching, do you have any hobbies?

If hobbies are what occurs when I'm not working, then chasing my daughters around the house and reading are the answer. I've got most of Sandra Boynton and Eric Carle's works (e.g. Snuggle Puppy, Barnyard Dance, Brown Bear Brown Bear, and The Very Hungry Caterpillar) memorized now. For myself, I've been on a bend through Dr. Peter Kreef's reading recommendations that 'Nobody should Die Without Reading'. Orthodoxy by G.K. Chesterton is one I recently finished but Global Economic History by Robert C. Allen is another recent completion. If anyone wants to discuss The Unity of Philosophical Experience by Etienne Gilson I'm currently working my way through it.

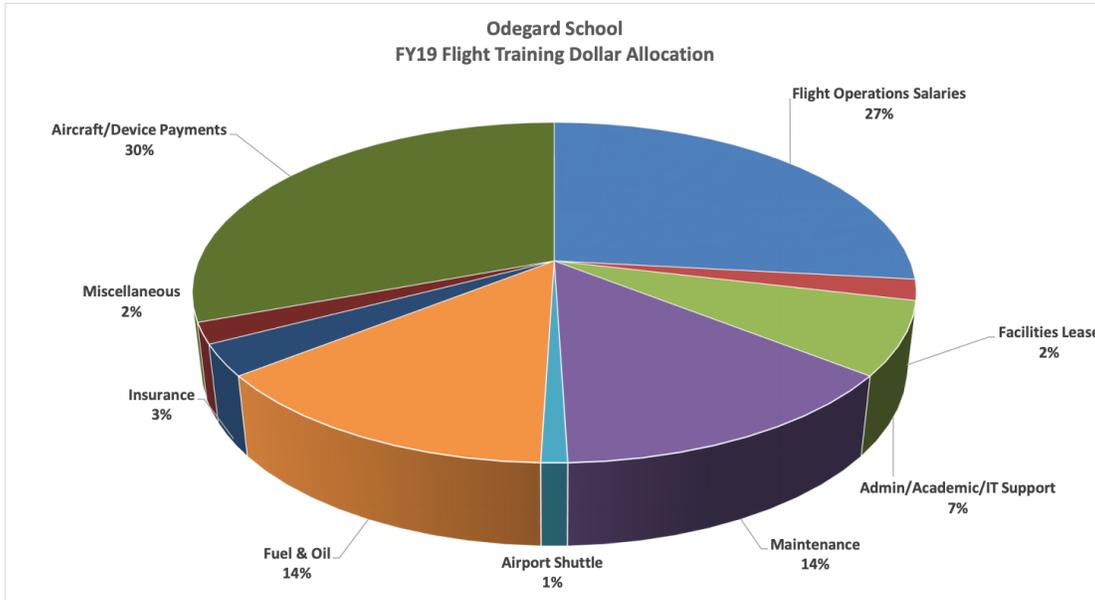
Where Does Your Dollar Go?

In recent semesters, aviation students have expressed interest in seeing an updated breakdown of where their money is spent. The college was happy to provide this information and is committed to transparency while fulfilling its mission to serve students. The charts on the following page have been created to more easily illustrate how flight training and ATC lab fees are used.

Aviation Fee Breakdown Continued

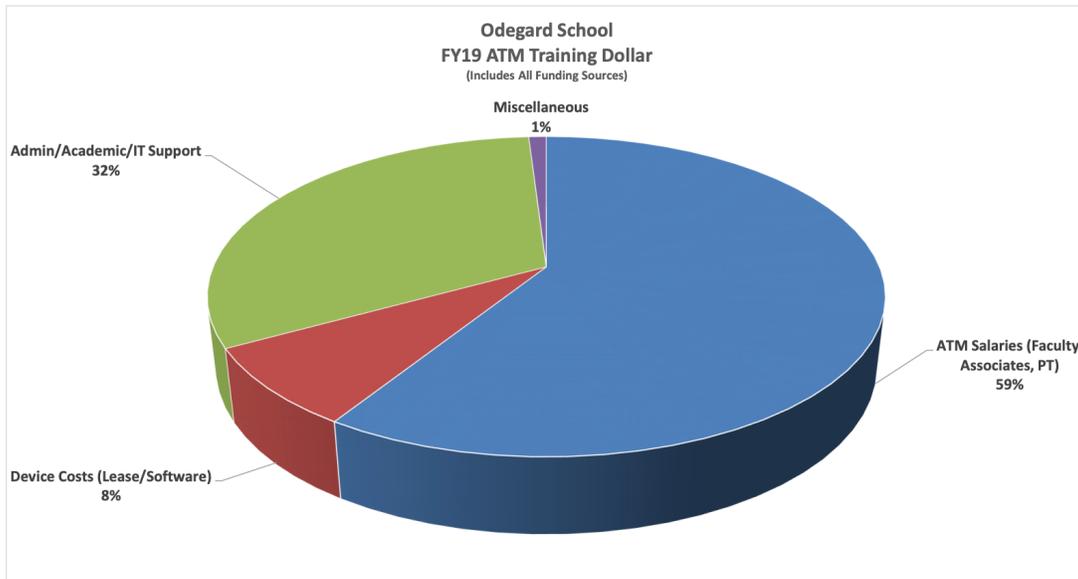
Odegard School
Flight Training Dollar Allocation - Actual

	FY19	FY16	FY17	FY19	FY19
Flight Operations Salaries	27	37%	39%	27%	\$ 6,015,090
Facilities Lease	2	2%	2%	2%	348,709
Admin/Academic/IT Support	7	4%	5%	7%	1,502,879
Maintenance	14	15%	15%	14%	3,094,070
Airport Shuttle	1	1%	1%	1%	249,062
Fuel & Oil	14	9%	12%	14%	3,032,242
Insurance	3	2%	3%	3%	730,765
Miscellaneous	2	1%	2%	2%	377,558
Aircraft/Device Payments	31	28%	22%	31%	6,930,675
					<u>\$ 22,281,050</u>



Odegard School
ATM Training Dollar - Actual

	FY19	FY19	FY19	FY19
ATM Salaries (Faculty, Associates, PT)	59	59%	\$ 643,269	\$ 627,223 Appropriated Funding
Device Costs (Lease/Software)	8	8%	91,083	458,324 Fees
Admin/Academic/IT Support	32	32%	344,287	<u>\$ 1,085,547</u>
Miscellaneous	1	1%	6,908	
			<u>\$ 1,085,547</u>	



New Instructor Spotlight:

Kevin Kriegh

AVIT 480 - CRJ Flight Instructor



Photo: University of North Dakota

What got you into aviation?

Growing up in southern Arizona I always saw airplanes flying, many of them military. I regularly heard their sonic booms. In the 1960's and '70's flying was about going higher and faster. It was a very romantic time for aviation. I built many models of airplanes but really had no idea where pilots came from. It wasn't until I was in college that I made a friend who came from a family of pilots. He and I would ditch class to rent an airplane. From there on flying became the priority. (I did eventually finish my degree while in the military.)

What's your educational background?

I did about half my undergraduate work at the University of Arizona, but ultimately got my B.S. from Embry-Riddle. I also attended many other courses during my career(s) in firefighting, emergency services, law enforcement, aviation, leadership, and management.

What's your professional experience?

In aviation, I flight instructed at flight schools in Arizona, California, and Germany teaching in PA28s, PA38s, PA44s, C150/2s, C172s, C310s, BE55s, T-34B, etc. I flew tours over the Grand Canyon from Las Vegas, NV in Cessna 402s. I worked for both SkyWest and Endeavor Air as a CRJ pilot. I served as a pilot and warrant officer in the United States Army, ultimately retiring from a civilian flying position with the government.

Favorite aircraft you've flown?

The AH-64A/D—I really enjoyed the teamwork and camaraderie involved in that aircraft's mission.

When you're not flying or teaching, do you have any hobbies?

I enjoy working with my hands such as working on old cars and building things. I am always up for exploring something or someplace new.

SAAC Holds Advising Focus Groups

Advising is one of the key roles of faculty, and is one of the most important tasks asked of professors besides teaching. This has been an area that the Odegard School prides itself on. Satisfaction with advising within the aviation department generally surpasses that of other departments on campus, however, recent survey data began to indicate a statistically significant decline in student perceptions of advising. Because of this, the aviation department sought feedback from students for ways to improve advising.



Photo: Paul Wesp

The aviation department and SAAC worked to collect feedback in a student-to student setting. After sending out a survey to find interested individuals, SAAC held focus groups to get feedback from every level of undergraduate student.

The purpose of the focus groups was to gather information on how the department can improve and to see if there is a difference in feedback based on academic level.

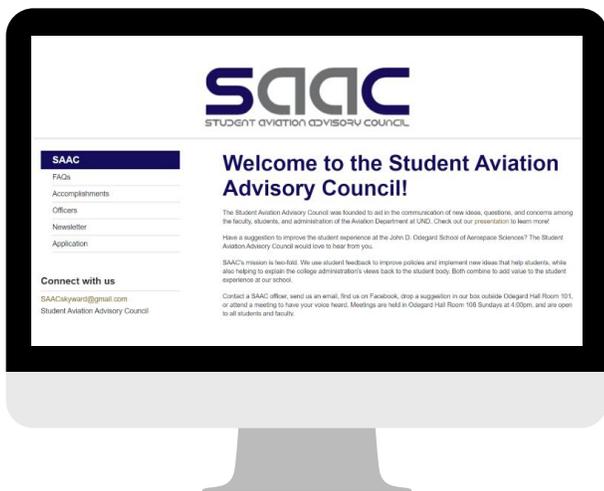
The results of the focus groups will help guide the department towards ensuring advising is as productive as it can be for students. One particular finding of note is that the majority of students who participated felt that in person advising was the most desirable format, opposed to other methods of delivery, such as email or video meeting.

With the shift to online delivery, the department worked hard to ensure they were able to meet the needs of students, especially with the confusion due to COVID-19. One well received solution was the group advising sessions held over Zoom. There were a total of six sessions, with three being geared towards specific majors: Air Traffic Management, Commercial Aviation, and UAS Operations. Additionally, the department created videos answering common questions relating to advising. These can be found on the Current Students tab of the UND Aerospace website, <https://aero.und.edu/aviation/current-students/advising.html>. Moving into summer and onwards, the Odegard School is committed to meeting students' needs when it comes to advising.

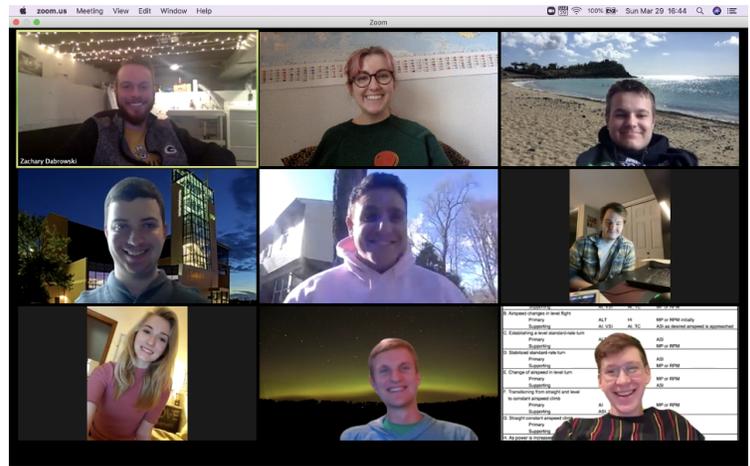
New SAAC Members Selected

The Spring 2020 semester has been an unforgettable one for many reasons. We were thrilled to see that we had a total of 20 applicants to be on SAAC next semester—much more than we've received in recent memory! We had the pleasure of interviewing 13 students over a two-night marathon, and we were excited to welcome 6 new members: Cody Anderson, Elizabeth Mislán, Emme Miller, Jordan Gyapong, Katia Peters, and Paul Kvamme.

SAAC Website Gets a Major Update



The Student Aviation Advisory Council website got a much needed update that completely revamped the look of the page. We are very grateful to Heather Schuler and Matthew Hillestad with ASN as well as SAAC Director of Technology, Stephen Smith for their work on this project. Please feel free to check it out!



One of many virtual SAAC meetings during the Spring 2020 Semester

Congratulations to all students, faculty, and staff for crossing the finish line on a challenging and unique spring semester!

Contact SAAC:

Website:

saac.aero.und.edu

Email:

saacskyward@gmail.com

Facebook:

[Facebook.com/saacund](https://www.facebook.com/saacund)

Instagram:

[saac.aero.und](https://www.instagram.com/saac.aero.und)

Suggestion Box:

Odegard 101

Meetings:

Sundays at 4:00PM Odegard 106