



Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 19 July 2022

1. **Call to Order:** Randy Helms '79, called the meeting to order at 1800.

2. **Members in Attendance:** See Attachment 1

3. **Others in Attendance:**

Colonel Art Primas, '92, Director of Admissions, USAF Academy

Bob Lowe '71, Chair, USAFA AOG Board of Directors

Will Gunn, '80, Vice Chair, USAFA AOG Board of Directors

Mark Hille, '97, President, USAFA AOG & AFAF

Naviere Walkewicz, '99, Senior Vice President, USAFA AOG Alumni Relations

Tony Capistrano, USAFA AOG/ IT

4. **Previous Minutes:**

<https://aog-websites.s3.amazonaws.com/usafa-g/documents/aog/governance/CAS/CAS+Minutes+-+19+April+2022+meeting+---+FINAL.pdf>

5. **Opening Remarks:**

CAS President Randy Helms, '79 opened the meeting and introduced Colonel Art Primas, '92, Director of Admissions, USAF Academy.

6. **Colonel Art Primas, '92, Director of Admissions, USAF Academy: (see attached slides)**

- Colonel Primas presented a briefing on USAF Academy Admissions. The slides are very detailed and informative. Some highlights are:
 - SECAF applicant pool goals go back to 2014. See SECAF letter and AF Mission Directive # 12. The aim is to have 50% STEM.
 - Space Force slots total 96 from AFA each year. The Cadets must compete for these slots as there are more applicants than slots. The other military academies have a combined five slots to Space Force each year.
 - In referencing Slide #3, it shows USAFA Class of 2020-2026 applicant pool versus USAF goals, and percentages broken down by race, ethnicity, and gender.
 - The goal for entering females is 30%; they set a record for 2025, then saw a drop for 2026.
 - There were 8,600 applicants for 2026, down from 11,600 last year. The five-year average is 10, 600 applicants.
 - All military academies saw a 20% drop in applications for 2026.

- Eligibility requirements are shown on Slide #4: US Citizen, less than 23 years old, not married, not pregnant, good moral character.
- Physical Fitness qualifications for the Candidate Fitness Assessment (CFA) are shown on Slide #5. Candidates can have one “do over” if they fail the CFA.
- DODMERB is the DOD Medical Exam Review Board. If a candidate fails the medical review and is otherwise qualified, the Board will forward their package to AETC for a waiver review; applicant can rebut it if she/he desires; and lastly, the applicant can go to the AETC Commander directly for the waiver. Some of these happen before the nomination and some after it.
- Slide #7 shows the current legal nomination categories. Congressional, Presidential, several military categories. Note that that the Presidential category has a limit of 100 nominations, the military categories have unlimited nominations, and the Superintendent has 50 maximum nominations. There is no category for son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter of an AFA graduate.
- The ten steps for application are shown on Slide #8; it starts on 1 March of the candidates’ Junior year in high school, and 31 January of the senior year is the deadline for Congress to submit nominations. Note that Colorado Springs is the most competitive area in the USA.
- The Academy Board approves “at risk” USAFA appointments and meets bi-weekly from August to May. The Superintendent chairs the Board.
- The AFA can have no more than 60 foreign Cadets at the Academy at any time. There are usually about 15 per class, and there must be a waiver granted for more than three foreign Cadets from one country at one time.
- The Prep School had 219 applicants this year. Their goal was 234.
- The Falcon Foundation grants scholarships and usually sends about 65 candidates to the five schools listed on Slide #11. They are considered “direct entry qualified” if they didn’t make this year’s list. They do one year with zero academic credit; almost all get appointments.
- Slide #12 is an incredibly detailed breakout listing of 2026 appointees showing gender, ethnicity, race, medical status, athletes, legacy, and other categories.
- Randy Helms, ’79 asked anyone who has a question on this presentation, to send him any questions that they may have now or develop later, and he will process it to Col Primas.

7. Bob Lowe, ‘71, Chairman, AOG Board of Directors Remarks:

- He said the Board has learned that the Graduate Survey tells them that they need to pay more attention to people issues.
- There will be a Board meeting this coming Friday.
- For the next Board election, it is worth noting that there are no ‘90s grads on the Board. Perhaps there will be some candidates this next time.

- The 3 August 2022 Day of Giving is approaching fast; it is important to get the word out to all graduates.

8. Mark Hille, '97, AOG & AFAF President:

- Mark Hille, '97 stated that during this first six months of the year, they have had very strong financial support. With a goal of \$35M, as of today they have \$34.5M, with five months to go.
- On the AOG side, revenues from merchandise are up (“reflecting institutional pride.”)
- Membership has been strong this first half of the year; families, corporate sponsorships.
- Return on investments has not been good (even though they are very conservative on their investments).
- Grad Survey results are telling them that they need to look at a different way of doing things. They need to be more present and more relevant to grads in their lives.
- The Strategic Plan will be launched in 2023.
- Their goals are to maintain their charitable funds accounts, transfer \$25M annually to the AFA, keep their own personnel team lean, and to assist with 16 active capital projects per year.

9. Naviere Walkewicz, '99, AOG Senior Vice President Alumni Relations: (see attached slides)

- Naviere updated the Membership-for-All Grads Program. The program was launched on 3 January 2022. Membership is currently at 66%. AFA Graduates can sign up at: <https://membership4grads.usafa.org/>
- She noted that you must be a member for 70 days prior to be able to vote in any election.
- She also updated the recent Grad Survey. It will be initially presented to the AOG Board on 22 July 2022, then released to all others in August 2022.
- She presented a slide of Upcoming events July - September, starting with “Heritage Days” at Doolittle on 25-29 July 22, “1 Day1USAFA” on 3 August 22, and “Forged in Blue” on 11 August 22. Then a list of football games and reunions.
- She then briefed the upcoming 1Day1USAFA Fundraising event on 3 August 2022. A single day of Giving for USAFA. <https://1day1usafa.org/pages/home-2463>

10. Other Business / Round Table:

- Terry Storm, '61 (representing his class's senator), said that he had not been to a CAS meeting in quite some time, but just wanted to say “Well Done” for bringing the AOG and Foundation Boards together under a single CEO. He had been involved in setting the groundwork for that when he was the AOG Board Chairman.

11. Randy Helms, '79, CAS President, gave brief closing comments:

- He reminded senators that we will hold elections for the CAS Officers and Executive Committee after the November CAS meeting. We will conduct the election via ballot through email. He

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



asked that all senators think about running for President, Vice President, Secretary, and the Executive Committee. Let Randy, Jason, Tom or Naviere (naviere.walkewicz@aogusafa.org) know if you are interested.

- He then thanked Senators for their continued support and adjourned the meeting.

12. Next Meetings:

- AOG Board, 22 July 2022
- CAS Executive Committee, 20 Sep 2022
- CAS, 1 Nov 2022
- CAS Schedule: [CAS Schedule.xlsx \(aog-websites.s3.amazonaws.com\)](#)

- The 19 July 22 meeting can be viewed at this LINK:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/0YchyZjdAs0aoQ357gPoru8S-8Hexm6MAhyfZs-pto7igk6-qROr7anbfdYIUIB .J9NayKyf826rit8F>
 - Passcode: ZfWa8^B\$

13. Close/Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2001.

Minutes submitted by: Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary

Minutes approved by: Randy Helms '79, CAS President

Attachments:

1. [Members in Attendance](#)
2. [Director of Admissions slides](#)
3. [AOG Update slides](#)