

Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 15 April 2025 - FINAL

1. Call to Order: CAS President John Cinnamon, '91, called the meeting to order at 1700.

2. Members in Attendance: See Attachment 1

3. Others in Attendance:

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

Michael Cornelius, '00, USAFA AOG Executive Vice President, Alumni Relations

Naviere Walkewicz, '99, Senior Vice President, USAFA AOG Engagement

Makenzie Quintana, USAFA AOG Division Operations Manager

4. Previous Minutes:

<https://aog-websites.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/usafa-org/documents/aog/governance/CAS/CAS+Minutes+-+21+January+2025+---+FINAL.pdf>

5. John Cinnamon, '91, President Class Advisory Senate:

John announced that the focus of this meeting was to have a CAS discussion about topics that are important to the graduate classes. His intent is to present these topics to the AOG Board of Directors as the Class Advisory Senate President. Many of the Senators have contacted their respective classes to find out what is most important to them as Air Force Academy graduates.

- John then led the discussion on topics that are important to AFA classes. Most of the discussion centered around personal views of the Honor Code, how important it is, and how it has changed since they were Cadets. Some points agreed to by most or all:
 - The Honor Code is the most fundamental aspect of Cadet life.
 - We supported it when we were there and now realize that there have been some changes to it and its implementation.
 - The Superintendent has received over 250 emails about the recent honor code violations from the graduate community; he is looking at the whole process and the investigation is on-going.
 - Either we have an Honor Code, or we don't; and either we enforce the Honor Code, or we don't. The Code is important.
 - The reality is that we must adapt; those in charge have had to adapt. The Honor Code is being enforced, just not like we knew it.
 - Part of the reality is that there are now legal ramifications; there have been some Cadets that have been found guilty by a Cadet Honor Board and decided to take it to court. Some have been overturned on the basis that they were not afforded "due process."

- At the AFA, the focus is on leadership, developing leaders of character. You cannot have leadership without integrity.
- We don't expect even the most honest high school students to understand the Honor Code when they first arrive at the AFA. They absolutely need the right training during Doolie Basic Training summer to ensure that they understand it when the academic year begins in August.
- The USAFA is a military institution, not a civilian institution. Cadets must be ingrained with the value that 'your word is your bond.'
- The Academy must be "special" academically, militarily, and athletically. We must make sure we don't lose that.
- The main focus should be to graduate not someone with a special academic major, but to create a leader with integrity and sense of service.
- We seem to be over-cooking academics and should concentrate on military.
- Seniors should not feel different than freshmen or be treated that way by implementation of the Honor Code.
- OTHER inputs:
 - It is difficult to determine what is "AFA timeless" and what is important in our current time. The Senate should take on and determine the answer to this question: "What is it that is "timeless" about our Academy?" (...and should remain timeless?)
 - We are prepared extremely well compared to our civilian counterparts for service after graduation. One thing that is missing is the interaction with the enlisted force. We should have been introduced to what is important to the lower enlisted ranks and what our dynamic should be. We barely saw them during our four years at USAFA.
 - Reunions need to be better than we have been experiencing.
 - There used to be instructions (the "how to do it") on the AOG website.
 - The AOG needs to be better at what they do and take credit for what they do; not rely on Armed Forces Reunions (AFR).
 - Security is an issue; there needs to be improved access for graduates; they need to be able to take their kids and grandkids into USAFA.
 - There needs to be improvement in the support for graduate classes.
 - How can we improve that support?
 - What changes can be made that will be value-added?
 - What support can be provided by our Alumni Association?
 - We need to pulse our classes to give input to the Board; and then funnel answers back to the classes.

6. Mark Hille, '97, President and CEO, USAFA AOG & AFAP.

- Mark stated USAFA accreditation is on-going at this time and a planning drill is being conducted to prioritize resources, including a look at the numbers of faculty and individual courses.
- The new Academy AOG Board of Directors will be installed at the upcoming meeting on 25 April 2025. There are five newly elected and two appointed Board members.
- He also answered a question on the *Checkpoints* magazine.
 - He stated that *Checkpoints* has had to change due to hard realities. There are now 200 obituaries submitted per quarter, and the magazine cannot handle it.
 - The AOG has launched a new publication, “Here’s A Toast: Gone But Not Forgotten”. It has replaced the original *Gone But Not Forgotten* in *Checkpoints*.
 - Death notices (lists) will still run in *Checkpoints* and on the GBNF website.

7. Naviere Walkewicz, '99, Senior Vice President, USAFA AOG Engagement.

- Naviere stated that the Long Blue Line Weekend and Cadet March-back have been scheduled and you can find info on the AOG website.

8. Michele Bergeman, USAFA AOG & AFAP Director of Heritage.

- Michele stated that the Reunion SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) for 2025 and the selection process has been updated and is on the AOG web site.

9. Other Business / Round Table. None.

10. John Cinnamon, '91, CAS President gave brief closing comments:

- He thanked Senators for their continued support and participation in today’s discussion.

11. Next Meetings:

- AOG Board, 25 April 2025
- CAS Executive Committee, 17 June 2025
- CAS, 15 July 2025
- CAS Schedule:
<https://aog-websites.s3.amazonaws.com/usafaorg/documents/aog/governance/CAS/CAS+Schedule+Jan+2024.pdf>

12. Close/Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1833.

Minutes submitted by: Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary

Minutes approved by: John Cinnamon '91, CAS President

Attachments:

1. Members in Attendance

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



AS OF: 15 April 2025

Atch 1: Members in Attendance:

59
60
61
62
63 John Borling
64 Doug Jenkins
64 (Jay Kelley – G)
65
66 Larry Bagley
67 Pete Knepell
68 Hartsel Beckett
69 Tom Fleming
70 Gerry Shaw
70 (Roger Hill – B)
71 Tom Berry
72 (Andy Gestner -G)
73 A J Ranft – Vice President
74 Tom Hayden – Secretary
75 Bruce Mitchell
76 Dan Beatty
77 Joe Niemeyer
78 Wayne Hermendorfer
79 Randy Helms
80
81
82
83 Court Collier
84 DJ Johnson
85
86
87 Tim Matson
88
89
90 Oliver Washington
91 John Cinnamon – President
92 Rick Bailey

93
94
95 (Tim Gillaspie - B)
96 Junk Wilson
97
98 Casey Vile
98 (Felecia Recker – G)
99
00
01
02
03 Heidi Schlagheck
04 Shayla CantySmith
05 John Tamasitis
06 Chad Polumbo
07
08
09
10
11 (Thomas Nichol – B)
12
13
14
15
16 Zach He
17
18
19
20
21
22
23 Usama Bamieh
24 (Abby Gabb Horne – B)

[Names in () are non-senators]

["B" = Backup]

["G" = Guest]