



Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 12 January 2021

1. **Call to Order:** Doug “Mush” Brower ’72, called the (virtual “Zoom”) meeting to order at 1800.

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

3. **Others in Attendance:**

Lt General Richard M. Clark ’86, Superintendent, USAF Academy

Cathy McClain ’82, Chair, AOG Board of Directors

Marty Marcolongo ’88, USAFA AOG President and COO

Mark Hille ’97, AFA Foundation President and COO

Corrie Grubbs, USAFA AOG Senior Vice President, Operations

Michele Bergeman, USAFA AOG, Vice President of Alumni & Constituent Relations

Emma Przybyslawski ’10, AOG Board, Director

Tony Capistrano, AOG IT Support specialist

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

- Previous minutes posted here:

https://aog-websites.s3.amazonaws.com/usafa-org/documents/aog/governance/CAS/CAS+Minutes+-+13+October+2020+meeting+_FINAL.pdf

- Dennis Murphy, ’65 moved that the minutes be approved.
- Dan Beatty ’79 seconded.
- The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. **Opening Remarks:**

- Mush Brower ’72 handed off the CAS to new Officers Randy Helms ’79, President; Jason Harris ’01, Vice President; and Tom Hayden ’74 Secretary.
- And welcomed the new CAS Executive Committee: Dick Sexton ’60; Tom Berry ’71; Dan Beatty ’76; Turk Hess ’80; Heidi Schlagheck ’03; Forrest Underwood ’09; Richie Sapp ’15, and Kristen McKinney ’20;
- Randy Helms ’79 and Cathy McClain ’82 thanked Mush for his service and presented him with departure gifts.

6. Lt General Richard M. Clark, '86, Superintendent, USAF Academy:

- Randy Helms, '79 introduced Lt Gen Clark '86.
- Lt Gen Clark '86 began by thanking his predecessor, Lt Gen Silveria '85 for his incredible leadership, and stated he was honored to be here as the new USAFA Superintendent.
- Lt Gen Clark thanked Mush for his hard work and successful term as CAS President, and also thanked all of the CAS Senators for what they do for the Academy.

- His stated his initial GOALS:
 - (1) First and foremost, to develop leaders of character for the nation.
 - (2) Minimize the effects of Covid-19 and to eventually defeat it.
 - (3) Prepare Cadets for future conflict, to help the them understand what they'll be doing in the next 25 years.
 - (4) To create an atmosphere of dignity and respect for all; this is a strategic imperative. The country is changing and we must change with it. We need to continue a culture of respect at USAFA, across the board.

- Update on COVID:
 - USAFA currently has a 1% infection rate, as compared with Colorado Springs 4%.
 - His infection team is continuously analyzing to try and stay ahead of it; when the AFA went up to 4%, Colorado Springs went up to 15%, and they shut down the Academy gates; they have procedures to isolate and quarantine.
 - The AFA experts from Medical, Bio, ABW, and Faculty all pulled together and performed well, they brought the rate down.
 - They kept the Cadets at AFA for Thanksgiving to try and keep them healthy to complete the semester, and were able to go through Final exams; then were able to send the Cadets home for Christmas break. They got them all back to USAFA over 5, 6, 7 January 2021, and tested all 4,300 Cadets when they returned.
 - They will skip Spring Break this year.
 - Currently, there are about 50 Cadets who have test positive; they are isolated and have started classes.
 - All of the other Service Academies have used our model to help their schools through this pandemic.
 - The Academy received 1,000 doses of the vaccine and have vaccinated people across the base: first responders, senior leaders, mission essential personnel and a few Cadets.
 - COVID is not finished with us and we are ready for it!



- Update on Racial Disparity Review:
 - The USAF, and here at USAFA too, all started with the review about the timeframe of the George Floyd incident.
 - Many have been looking at it to see if we have any issues; we do.
 - There are developmental opportunities throughout the USAF; there are justice issues --- there definitely is something going on in the Air Force, the Space Force, and here at USAFA. We don't exactly know what it is at this point but we are analyzing it to determine what it is.

- Update on Graduation:
 - "The Cadets don't know this yet, so you are the first to hear it: we are NOT going to have a full up graduation" this year with 22 guests per Cadet, and full access to the AFA.
 - We are trying to have it in the Stadium again, but haven't worked that out yet.
 - The big question we are reviewing is how many guests can a Cadet have; we're thinking somewhere between two to five guests per Cadet.
 - We are also looking at the other events that are important to Cadets: Recognition, Ring Dance, and other events that normally happen in the last few weeks before Graduation.

- Update on Graduate Assignments:
 - AFSCs are still not out; they are really late this year.
 - We are trying make preferences happen, but the needs of the USAF are first priority.

- Update on Institute for Future Conflict (IFC):
 - The IFC is currently being stood up under the Dean.
 - The purpose is to prepare graduates for the world in 2055, and possible conflicts at that time; they must be ready for that level of conflict, both at and below that level.
 - We are currently hiring a Director to head up the IFC.

- Update on Center for Cyber Innovation:
 - We intend to break ground on this project, starting construction, in the Spring 2021.
 - What we do here will feed into the Institute for Future Conflict.
 - Our goal is to outpace our adversaries.
 - USAFA is the place for space; AFA is the Space Force's academy; we want to lead this Space Force effort.

- Lt Gen Clark finished by thanking the Alumni. "We're only as strong as our as our Alumni."



- **Questions and Answers:**

1. Randy Helms, '79 asked the Supt to comment on the SPEAs (Squadron Professional Ethics Advisors) impact to Honor Code instruction. The Supt answered that the last Honor Code scandal had a surprisingly large number of Cadets, mostly three and four degrees; 80% admitted it right away; 10% didn't admit it and "we are still working them through it;" and there were another 10% that we couldn't keep due to previous incidents/probations. SPEAs are helping them through it, as an opportunity to improve. We are taking a hard look at the Honor Code, largely thanks to inputs from the SPEAs, trying to determine "if the Honor Code is serving the Cadets as it should." This is an internal look at the Honor System – we'll determine if we need to make any changes.

2. Joe Matchette, '89 commented that the feedback he has received is that the Cadets loved the time that the Supt spent with them last Fall. [Lt Gen Clark spent a night in the dorm with each squadron, talking to them and listening to their concerns.] The Supt said that they talked a lot about the Honor Code. "The Honor Code belongs to the Cadets." But the AFA needs a way for AFA permanent party to be a part of it, to be involved with advice and mentorship. All of this to make Honor process better, "so that it can give the Cadets what they deserve."

3. Pat Buckley, '61 asked if the other academies will have slots in the Space Force. The Supt said he thought so, and the graduates will obviously have to cross-commission; he thinks the SF will want to diversify their force.

4. Casey Vile, '98 asked him to comment on the events of last week with Alumni in the news (on 6 Jan 2021 at the Capitol building.) The Supt said that he plans to have an "All Call" with the Cadets and all USAFA personnel about those events. He feels that they have to talk about these things and the expectations of our AFA graduates. They have to understand that they are held to a higher standard. "As an alumni, you are held to a higher standard due to your association with this school."

5. Lou Matjasko, '63 asked if the Space Force will create a need to increase the size of the Cadet Wing. The Supt answered not right now, but it may impact Cadet authorizations in the future. Right now they send roughly 100 graduates per year to the Space Force.

6. Kristen McKinney, '20 asked him to comment on the diversity report review. The Supt they have set up a review commission, and that they are looking at the disciplinary system. They want to help our graduates be able to help the USAF deal with these issues in the future. He wants it to be a "way of life" here at USAFA.

7. Ski Wagasky, '72 asked about the morale of all classes, especially the lower two classes. The Supt said that when he spent a night with each Cadet Squadron, he purposely wanted to take a

day to just “hang out” talking; they usually talked to 0100 to 0200 each morning. He wanted to change the narrative and improve Cadet morale. “Academy life is immensely more difficult in a pandemic.”

8. Tom Berry, '71 said that he has been a SPEA in the past and is back now to help as he can. The Supt again stated that “our school is only as strong as our Alumni. Keep reaching out to your classes to bring them in.”

7. Cathy McClain, '82, Chair, AOG BOD Remarks:

- The AOG Board election will start 8 Feb 2021 and go through 22 March 2021. This is six weeks for our membership to vote. These Board positions are 4-year positions, where half of the Directors swap out every two years. For this election, we have 30 candidates as well as proposed changes to the Board Bylaws.
- The proposed Bylaws changes will focus on (1) to give the Class Advisory Senate President a vote, and (2) add another way for the Bylaws to be changed in an effort to be more adaptive and more responsive. Right now, the bylaws say it takes 25% of the membership to vote in any election for the bylaw changes to be accepted, if the majority votes to approve the change. [Currently, a majority on a particular vote will not change anything unless a minimum of 25% of the membership actually votes.]
- The current ways to change the Bylaws will still remain in place. But the proposed change is to add a way to change the bylaws by allowing the BOD to approve changes with a majority Board vote so that “we can adapt quickly to support future AOG needs.” The other two additional ways that members can act as a check and balance to this method: (1) Any member can bring up any issue to any Director for presentation to the Board for reconsideration. (2) Can petition a vote of the AOG membership.
- Talk to your classes and encourage them to vote.

8. Marty Marcolongo '88, AOG President/COO:

- Due to the covid-19 pandemic, the AOG is developing more and more ways to get info out to the Graduate Community, like Zoom meeting updates, a forum on space careers, a senior leader call with the Prep School Commander, a virtual Academy Assembly Panel, and presentations like the recent leadership award for Brig Gen Sampson.
- Coming up is Zoomie Class History 345, “Way of War.”
- They are currently looking a recurring way of getting the word out to graduates.
- Grads have helped to get packages to the Cadet Squadrons, and letters for morale improvement, not to mention providing the Cadets with sodas and snacks.
- There will be a 25% reduction in Checkpoints coming in the near future.

- Randy Helms, '79 asked the class senators that are running for a Board Director position that are present here tonight to say a few words. Sen Joseph Bledsoe '11, Sen Forrest Underwood '09, and Sen John Cinnamon '91, were present and made comments. Joe mentioned that several of them were going to hold a virtual town hall meeting for graduate questions. Forrest stated that he was trying to galvanize young grads, and John stated he was concerned about helping with funding issues. Emma Przybyslawski '10, a current AOG Board, Director was also present for this CAS meeting, and said that she is running for re-election and would also participate in the town hall meeting.

10. Mark Hille '97, AFA Foundation President/COO:

- "I rejoined the AFA Foundation on 1 April 2020. We have had a remarkably strong year."
- Under conditions of this very difficult year, the AFAF has raised just under \$34 million for 2020.
- \$37 million received in cash was the highest-ever amount by almost a factor of two.
- Project status: The AFAF received a \$17 million donation for the Cyber Center (a check written to the Supt last Fall.) This project is sponsored by classes '77, '78, '79, '82, '83, '87. It is nearing about 35% design complete, and are hoping for a groundbreaking ceremony in the Spring.
- Project status: The Air Gardens Restoration project (sponsored by classes '72, '75, '76) will be completed in the Springtime when the contractors can plant the trees.
- Project status: The Air War Memorial is expected to be completed by the start of the reunion season. They are also looking at adding an HH Jolly Green to the site.
- Project status: The ROPES course will be replaced starting this Spring, a class of '63 gift.
- Project status: Classes '97 and '98 have helped to complete the Planetarium renovation.
- The \$270 million, 2021 Campaign has been launched, with \$55 million raised to date. They are also looking at having regional campaign launch events.
- The Supt has asked us for \$100 million over 10 years for the Institute for Future Conflict.
- The AFAF is planning a campaign for donor participation in the Falcon Stadium renovation.
- For the Visitor Center at the North Gate, the developer has received an extension from both the USAF and the State-City to meet the bond-financing requirements. It dropped out last year due to market issues.

11. Corrie Grubbs, USAFA AOG Senior Vice President, Operations:

- Our big problem on class reunions is that "we don't know what we don't know." In February, we'll readdress it.
- On a positive note, we're trying to make the reunion Open House more interactive with Cadets.
- "We will get a small group together for inputs once we can see what's going on."

12. Other Business / Round Table :

- Pat Buckley '61 stated that some older grads are now having breathing issues, so asked the AOG to look at providing support to other reunion venues at a lower altitude.
- Jason Harris '01, incoming CAS Vice President, stated that he was honored to be part of the Senate and looked forward to working with everyone.
- Scott Dumbauld '85 stated that we should keep a pulse on the possible changes coming to the Honor Code, "we need to keep it."
- Shayla CantySmith '04 asked what is the AOG doing to stay involved with the unlawful actions review. Marty Marcolongo '88 stated that the Supt said he is still considering the way forward.
- Tom Hayden '74 stated that as the Reunion Chair for his class, he is working with the AOG to look at how to improve reunions, referencing what Corrie Grubbs said earlier. Tom had suggested that the AOG form an advisory committee with Reunion Chairpersons to talk about/brainstorm reunion issues. He has also suggested that a "hotwash" can be done each year with that years' reunion chairpersons to discuss what went right and what didn't, and that this lessons-learned-hotwash be institutionalized, so that it happens after every reunion season. Also, there is an issue with certain classes being "knocked out of their seniority status" during a reunion season by other junior classes that make their own arrangements with Springs hotels. Other reunion chairman have also experienced this problem. The AOG reunion support staff is very frustrated by these people that complicate reunion support. Other class reunion chairs that are interested in participating in this meeting with the AOG, please contact Tom.
- All others, nothing further.

13. Next Meetings:

- AOG Board, 12 February 2021
- CAS Executive Committee, 9 March 2021
- CAS, 13 April 2021

14. Close/Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1954.

Minutes submitted by: Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary

Minutes approved by: Randy Helms '79, CAS President

Attachments:

1. Members in Attendance

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



Atch 1: Members in Attendance:

59	91 John Cinnamon
60 Dick Sexton	92 Rick Bailey
61 Patrick Buckley	93
62 Dave Holt	94
63 (Lou Matjasko – B)	95 (Tim Gillaspie - B)
64 Doug Jenkins	96
65 Denny Murphy	97
66	98 Casey Vile
67 Jeff Schofield	99
68 Hartsel Beckett	00
69 Tom Fleming	01 Jason Harris, Incoming Vice President
70 Roger Hill	02
71 Tom Berry	03
72 Doug Brower – Outgoing President	04 Shayla CantySmith
72 Ski Wagaski – Incoming Senator	05
73 A J Ranft	06
74 Tom Hayden - Secretary	07
75 Bruce Mitchell	08 CJ Thompson
76 Dan Beatty	09 Forrest Underwood
77	10
78	11 Joe Bledsoe
79 Randy Helms – Incoming President	12 Paulo Dutra
80 Derek Hess	13
81	14 Nico Rudd
82 Jim Ratti	15
83 Court Collier	16
84	17
85 Scott Dumbauld	18 Sam Eckholm
86	19 Tony Cabri
87 Dave Hollenbach	20 Kristen McKenney
88	
89 Joe Matchette	
90 Cathy Almond	

Names in () are non-senators

“B” = Backup