

## **Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 17 January 2023**

**1. Call to Order:** Randy Helms '79, called the meeting to order at 1700.

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

**3. Others in Attendance:**

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

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

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

Felecia Recker '98, Senior Director, Alumni Programs

**4. Previous Minutes:**

<https://aog-websites.s3.amazonaws.com/usafa-org/documents/aog/governance/CAS/CAS+Minutes+-+1+Nov+2022+meeting+---+FINAL.pdf>

**5. Randy Helms, '79, President Class Advisory Senate:**

- Randy stated that the majority of this Senate meeting will be devoted to a discussion on the CAS meeting format. There are two options that were put on the table at the December 2022 CAS Executive Committee meeting:
  - (1) Keep the same format that we currently have, where the main focus is on a guest speaker (someone in the AFA leadership chain), and then add AOG/ Board support discussion items into the meeting when they are needed, or
  - (2) Have the AFA leadership provide a periodic video tape update on their area of responsibility, that can be sent out to all graduates, freeing up all CAS meetings to discuss AOG/ Board support discussion items, and items of interest to Senators (like Class Reunions, and the former Bed and Breakfast Program).
- There was a great deal of discussion.
- Randy asked for a vote on a Hybrid Option: Let the CAS Executive Committee decide whether to have a guest speaker, or to focus on issues for any particular meeting.
  - This option was approved with a unanimous vote of the senators present.

**6. Bob Lowe, '71, Chairman, AOG Board of Directors Remarks:**

- Bob thanked Randy Helms and the Class Advisory Senate for their support.

- He said the next Board meeting is set to take place during the Academy's NCLS and there are several Board members that will participate. He encouraged participation.
- In fundraising, Bob stated that Air Force Academy members are at a 14% participation rate, compared to West Point and Annapolis which are both about twice that.
- He said to note that the Service Academy football game this year (with Army) is on 4 November at Mile High Stadium in Denver.

**7. Mark Hille, '97, AOG & AFAF President:**

- Mark Hille, '97 stated this past year has been a good year for the AOG-Foundation.
- Membership for All was put in place in January 2022, and to date has added about 5,000 AOG members. The total goal is 85%, and the program is currently at 69%.
- The Graduate Survey by the AOG Board was taken by over 9,000 graduates. The results were published in Checkpoints, on-line, and discussed in detail by the AOG Board for improvements to be made and implemented.
- In fundraising, this has been their best year with \$51.7 million dollars raised. For the Campaign, they have raised \$250 million out of a \$270 million goal, and there are still two years to go.
  - Some projects, like the Stadium renovation, the Doolittle Campus, and Heritage Trail need more work and more focus.
- Both Boards approved and endorsed the first Strategic Plan. The Vision is a must read.
- In 2023, the focus will be in realizing that Strategic Plan Vision, ie, on activities with the highest return on investment. One will be on reunions – how to get more engagement out of the reunions.
  - Mark stated that Cadets are here for four years, then leave the Academy, and “we lose them. The focus needs to be on the first ten years after graduation.”
- There is a National AOG Board election coming up soon. It will be held from 6 February 2023 to 6 March 2023. There are 30 candidates for 5 open board positions.

**8. Felecia Recker '98, Senior Director, Alumni Programs: (see attached slides)**

- Felicia briefed an update on Class Reunion support by the AOG.
- She covered Reunion objectives, changes and improvements, partnership with “Armed Forces Reunions”, staffing and prices.
- Changes and Improvements (see slide #5)
  - The 50-year reunion class still gets priority.
  - There has been a price reduction.
  - There is handicapped parking at the Base of the Ramp for those that request it.

- There will be nearly unlimited seating in Mitchell Hall for Lunch with the Cadets.
- “Armed Forces Reunions” is a contractor that will provide much of the Reunion coordination and support from now moving forward.
- “Armed Forces Reunions” are military reunion planners that have had over 30 years of experience. (Slide #6)
  - They will streamline the hotel and banquet contracting process, and negotiate on behalf of the class and the AOG.
  - They will do registration website services, badging, and event planning.
  - They will free up AOG staff.
- For Staffing, there are three AOG employees in the Alumni Programs Office, two personnel in the Events Staff, and then Superintendent’s, Commandant’s, Dean’s and Air Base Wing staffs. (Slide #7)
- Updated Pricing is now \$50.00 per graduate and \$40.00 per guest. Class registration fees are separate and determined by the class (Slide #8)

**9. Other Business / Round Table:**

- Randy Helms, ’79 said that a survey will be sent to all Senators to vote on CAS meeting start time: 1700 vs 1800 start. Naviere Walkewicz, ’99 will send out a survey in the next couple of weeks.
- Tom Hayden, ’74 said that he is retired now, and can make it at either start time, but when he was still working, he would not have been able to participate if the start time was 1700. Other younger CAS senators who are still working may also have that problem.

**10. Randy Helms, ’79, CAS President, gave brief closing comments:**

- He thanked Senators for their continued support and reminded senators to vote in the CAS meeting start time survey when they get it. He then adjourned the meeting.

**11. Next Meetings:**

- AOG Board, 22 Feb 2023
- CAS Executive Committee, 21 March 2023
- CAS, 18 April 2023
- CAS Schedule: <https://aog-websites.s3.amazonaws.com/usafa-org/documents/aog/governance/CAS/New+Schedule+July+2022.pdf>



**12. Close/Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1850.

Minutes submitted by: Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary

Minutes approved by: Randy Helms '79, CAS President

**Attachments:**

1. [Members in Attendance](#)
2. [AOG Update slides](#)