

Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 24 October 2024 - FINAL

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:**

Maj Gen (ret) Brian Bishop, '83, Chair, USAFA AOG Board of Directors

Hans Mueh, '66, Director, USAFA AOG Board of Directors

Cathy Almond, '90, Director, USAFA AOG Board of Directors

Joe Bledsoe, '11, Director, 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

Eli Alvarado, USAFA AOG IT Support

4. **Previous Minutes:**

<https://aog-websites.s3.amazonaws.com/usafa-org/documents/aog/governance/CAS/CAS+Minutes+-+16+July+2024+--+FINAL.pdf>

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

Randy introduced the guest speaker, Col Mark Sands, '94, Commander of Space Force Delta 13, Detachment 1, and senior USSF liaison to USAFA. His detachment develops programs and curriculum for the four-year undergraduate regimen leading to commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Space Force. Col. Sands most recently served as the Director of Staff at Space Operations Command, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado.

6. **Col Mark Sands, '94, Commander of Space Force Delta 13, Detachment 1, and senior USSF liaison to USAFA. (See Slides posted on the Class Senate Website)**

- Col Sands explained that the Space Detachment at USAFA drives the accession process for “how” guardians are selected and assists with West Point and Annapolis.
- The USAFA is one Academy, two Services. It is there to support all things Air and SPACE. In addition to his USSF chain of Command, he also works for the Superintendent.
- The detachment’s mission is to educate, train and inspire men and women to become leaders of character in the United States Space Force.
- To date, USAFA has produced 42 astronauts.
- They take all majors (history, poly sci, etc) at USAFA and integrate them into Space. The Class of 2024 was the last class that was selected into specific AFSCs, had 100 graduates

selected into USSF, and are now stationed at Peterson SFB for one year of training, then a specific career field will be assigned.

- The Space Career Fields are now Space Operator, Intelligence, Cyber Space, Engineering, and Acquisition. This year, 350 Cadets applied for 100 USSF slots. Selection is second semester, junior year.
 - Army and Navy share four slots, and ROTC gets 122 slots. USAFA gets more slots than any single institution. He said that the best place to go if you want Space, is the USAFA.
- USAFA Cadets are actually flying two satellites here at the AF Academy.
- In Academics:
 - US News and World Report lists the AFA as the #1 Astronautical Engineering Program.
 - Space Education spans nearly every department, including Bio, Comp Sci, Civil Engineering, Military Studies Physics, etc.
 - AFA also offers a Space warfighting minor.
 - There are over 100 Cadet Summer Research Programs (CSRPS).
- In Training:
 - They promote a 2-Service Culture: Air-minded Guardians and Space-minded Airmen.
 - Over 300 Cadets attend a nationwide undergrad space education and training summer program each summer (“Azimuth”). This includes ROTC, USMA, USNA, USAFA.
 - Azimuth is mandatory 3-weeks of training every summer for ROTC starting in summer 2025. They experience microgravity and neutral-buoyancy experiments, site visits, and leadership laboratories.
 - It buys down the Officer Training Course (OTC) risk by executing Desired Learning Objectives pre-commissioning.
 - AFA Cadets Design, test, and build satellites with DoD support. They have flown six satellites to date (gold, 1, 3, 5, 6, 8);
 - Cadet Space Operations currently has two satellites on orbit – FalconSAT #6 and #8, and are getting ready to launch FalconSAT X.
- “Blue Horizon” is one of the numerous activities used to get Cadets integrated; It consists of a diverse group of Cadets using a cross-discipline of study involved with a rocketry program; it stretches the spans of every academic department at USAFA.
- “i5” is an Arnold Air Society for Space and has grown to more than 40 university partnerships with over 800 cadets involved.
 - They participate in Research, war-gaming, strategic talks, and NATO efforts.
 - They also have Space Basics courses.
- Col Sands also explained the ‘Path to Space’ Lines of Efforts (LOEs):

- LOE #1 – Define the Pre-commissioned Guardian: Identify what USSF desires 2Lts to know/ experience across all commissioning sources.
- LOE #2 – Define USAFA’s ‘Path to Space’: Day One to Graduation, On-ramps, Guardianship Programs, Infusing Guardian Spirit in commissioning education.
- LOE #3 – Codify USAFA’s functions and USSF touchpoints: Institutionalize USSF at USAFA, roles and responsibilities, structure, and define the alignment of the Space Detachment.
- LOE #4 – Resource / Requirements for ‘Path to Space’: Manpower (HQ Staff/ Manpower Equivalents), Space Utilization, POM required to meet USSF requirements.
- LOE #5 – Codify Interim/ long range plans: How to get from ‘now’ to ‘steady state and gains in the near term’.
- Col Sands said their goal is to “prepare every Cadet to explain the “why” behind the USSF, and to give to each a foundation for the USSF environment.”

7. Mark Hille, ’97, President, USAFA AOG & AFAF.

- Mark stated that many graduates have had questions about the UNITY correspondence they received recently in the mail. UNITY was formerly known as STARRS. They have provided five candidates for the AOG Board elections and proposed several bylaws changes.
- UNITY asked the AOG for graduate contact information to be able to get their message disseminated on their candidates and proposed bylaws changes to all classes. Under Colorado law, the AOG was required to provide this contact information, as it is for a “proper purpose”, proposing bylaws changes and candidates for Board positions for the next Board election under proper Board governance procedures.
- The AOG staff has no opinion on UNITY proposals.
- The next Board of Directors ballot will have 17 Director candidates for five Board positions, as well as several proposed AOG Board Bylaws changes. The Board will also be able to appoint two directors to vacant positions.
- Mark also stated that Naviere Walkewicz, ’99, Senior Vice President, USAFA AOG Alumni Relations and Business Development, will be moving out of state by year’s end and the AOG has been searching for a replacement. Naviere has done a superb job at the AOG and will be sorely missed.

8. Maj Gen (ret) Brian Bishop, ’83, Chair, USAFA AOG Board of Directors.

- The UNITY message includes suggested changes in how the AOG interacts with the Superintendent and staff. MG (ret) Bishop stated that the Board is already doing some of the things being suggested. The Supt is “absolutely engaging with the AOG on inputs” and he has regular meetings with Mark Hill, ’97, every 2-4 weeks. He stated that the AOG has been very open and has provided a welcoming relationship.

- He asked that everyone, as always, do their own research on the candidates and make their own decisions on the candidates.

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

- Naviere briefed that we are now at 71.2% for graduate memberships.
- She also stated that 20 December 2024 is the deadline for membership registration to be able to vote in the upcoming AOG Board election.
- There were 6,000 graduates that were supported by the AOG in Reunions this year.
- Any graduate will receive a 25% discount if they stay at the Hotel Polaris.
- The AOG is now piloting a Young Alumni Program for new Graduates.
- AF GradCast drops the first Friday of every month and is available on all podcast apps.

10. Hans Mueh, '66, member of the AFA Honor Review Committee, and Tom Berry, '71, CS-29 SPEE led a discussion about new Honor Code changes.

- The toleration clause has experienced some issues over the years, with classmates establishing such a closeness within their ranks that Cadets are reluctant to report on a classmate that they suspect of an honor code violation.
- Currently, a fourth classman is required to confront a Cadet that they believe has committed an honor code violation. And stop there.
- A third classman is required to confront the member suspected of an honor code violation and then report it to an honor code mentor.
- First and second classmen are required to confront and report.
- The Honor Review Committee is comprised of 8 Cadets and 7 Officers.
- It has taken 2 years of discussions to get to this point; they determined that this has been more of a discussion to determine the administration of the honor code system than proposed changes.
- The Cadets and the Superintendent supported this, and it was published in the Honor Code Reference Handbook about a year ago. It is meant to evolve further.

11. Other Business / Round Table:

- Senators who made Round Table Comments:
 - John Borling, '63
 - Shayla Canty-Smith, '04

12. Randy Helms, '79, CAS President, introduced the CAS candidates for CAS President, CAS Vice President, and CAS Secretary, and asked each to provide comments to the CAS:

- CAS President:
 - Sky Wagasky, '72
 - John Cinnamon, '91

- CAS Vice President:
 - AJ Ranft, '73
- CAS Secretary:
 - Tom Hayden, '74
- At the next CAS meeting in January 2025, Randy will open the meeting and then turn it over to the new CAS Officers.

13. Next Meetings:

- AOG Board, 26 Feb 2025
- CAS Executive Committee, 3 December 2024
- CAS, 21 January 2025
- CAS Schedule:
<https://aog-websites.s3.amazonaws.com/usafaorg/documents/aog/governance/CAS/CAS+Schedule+Jan+2024.pdf>

14. Close/Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1912.

Minutes submitted by: Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary

Minutes approved by: Randy Helms '79, CAS President

Attachments:

1. Members in Attendance
2. LINK to USSF Presentation – Col Sands

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



AS OF: 24 October 2024

Atch 1: Members in Attendance:

59
60 Dick Sexton
61 Patrick Buckley
61
62
63 John Borling
64 Doug Jenkins
65
66
67 Pete Knepell
68 Hartsel Beckett
69
69 (Ron Olds – G)
69 (Randy Percy – G)
70 Gerry Shaw
70 (Roger Hill – G)
71 Tom Berry
72 Ski Wagasky
73 A J Ranft
74 Tom Hayden - Secretary
75 Bruce Mitchell
76 Dan Beatty
77 Joe Niemeyer
78 Wayne Hermandorfer
79 Randy Helms – President
80 Derek Hess
81
82 Jim Ratti
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90 Oliver Washington
91 John Cinnamon

91 (Rob Ramos – B)
92 Rick Bailey
93
94 (Doug Edwards – G)
95
96 Junk Wilson
97 Petey Arnold
98 Casey Vile
98 (Felecia Recker – G)
99 Paul Ferguson
00
01 Jason Harris - Vice President
02
03 Heidi Schlagheck
04 Shayla CantySmith
05
06
07 Rich Mickelsen
08 Ashley Fregley
09
10
11
12
13
14
15
16 Zach He
17
18
19
20 Kristen McKenney
21
22
23
24

[Names in () are non-senators]

["B" = Backup]

["G" = Guest]