

Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 21 July 2026 - FINAL

1. Call to Order: CAS Vice President AJ Ranft, '73, called the meeting to order at 1703.

2. Members in Attendance: See Attachment 1

3. Others in Attendance:

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

Lee Krauth, '72, Vice Chairman, USAFA AOG Board of Directors

Chris Bennett, '93, USAFA AOG Executive Vice President, Alumni Relations

Wyatt Hornsby, Director of Communications, USAFA AOG and Foundation

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

Michele Bergeman, Director of Heritage, USAFA AOG and Foundation

4. Previous Minutes:

You can now log into the AOG website to find copies of minutes by:

<https://www.usafa.org/class-advisory-senate>

5. AJ Ranft, '73, Vice President Class Advisory Senate.

AJ opened the meeting, greeting all attendees and describing the agenda and goals for the meeting. He reminded all that our CAS priorities are: (1) to Support to the Alumni, (2) to Support the current mission on the Hill, and (3) to Preserve our Heritage.

Today's agenda will include issues with support to Cadets and support to Graduates.

AJ reminded all that there will be Class Advisory Senate elections in the Fall, and to contact him or the CAS President, John Cinnamon, '91 if anyone would like to run for a CAS officer position.

He then asked for issues that the senators might want to add to today's discussion.

- To support Cadets, Dan Beatty, '76 suggested that there may be an opportunity to revisit the old "Bed & Breakfast" program that used to provide sponsors for an overnight place to stay for incoming cadet candidates, then get the candidate to the AFA for in-processing the next day. He gave a short history of the old program.
 - This program used to work well, but he does not know the reason that the program was cancelled by the Academy.
 - Cadets would arrive in Colorado Springs and spend the evening with the assigned volunteer sponsor prior to reporting into the USAFA the next day.
 - The "Meet and Greet" program is still in effect where graduate volunteers wait for arriving Cadet candidates at the Colorado Springs airport and answer any

questions that they may have, and provide directions as needed and/or other support requested.

- Mark Hille, '97 stated that the current "Family Day" program provides support to appointee processing the day before reporting. Approximately 4,000 family members who are dropping off their appointees are participating. There may not be a need for the old Bed and Breakfast Program, as most families today are traveling with their appointee. But there may be some appointees whose families do not deliver them to the AFA and may need some support. Mark stated that he will ask the question to see if the AFA would like to reinstate the program or if it is even needed.
- As his class has had some reunion issues with the Base Golf Course, AJ asked the senators to pulse their classes and reunion committees and see what problems they have encountered during recent reunions, and to send him an email with the details.
- A senator stated that he has had problems using the AOG on-line Register of Graduates to locate contact information for fellow graduates. It is not as easy now that there is not a printed version of the Register. Mark Hille, '97 stated that the AOG Register needs an update. The last update was in 2023. He asked that the word get out to classmates to update the AOG Register database: to update their profile, graduates need to go to: <https://profile.usafa.org/> ; it will ask them to sign in and from there they can update their information for the directory. Graduates will need their AOG member number to do this. Members can get their member number by calling the AOG.
 - Every member has on-line access to this Register information. Mark further stated that the AOG is planning to do an update in late August 2026.
 - Chris Bennet, '93 stated that the AOG has asked the Class of 2026 if they will allow the AOG to give their contact info to AFA chapters closest to their first assignment. About two thirds of them approved.
- A senator stated that it is difficult to get onto the AF Academy if they do not have a military ID card and asked if there was a process to get these graduates base access. Approximately 40% of graduates do not have a government ID card. He stated that the old procedure of showing a driver's license is no longer in effect. Mark Hille, '97 stated that he will have a discussion with the incoming Superintendent and his administration to see what can be done about this.
 - Family members need to go to USAFA Pass and ID to get access to the cemetery if they do not have a government ID card.
- CAS Vice President AJ Ranft, '73 stated that he will represent the CAS President at the next AOG Board of Directors meeting. He stated that he thinks that it is a problem that the CAS Vice President is not allowed to vote in the absence of the CAS President at the AOG Board meetings. Many other senators agreed. Without the substitute being able to vote actually disenfranchises the Class Advisory Senate and all its members.

6. Lee Krauth, '72, Vice Chairman, USAFA AOG Board of Directors.

- Referencing the question about the CAS Vice President/ substitute being allowed to vote in the absence of the CAS President at AOG Board of Directors meetings, Lee stated that there is no provision in the Board's bylaws to allow for a proxy vote. It would require a Bylaws change. He will make it a discussion item at the next AOG Board meeting.

7. AJ Ranft, '73 Vice President, Class Advisory Senate.

- AJ closed the meeting by reminding everyone of our three CAS goals: Support to the Alumni, (with reunions being most important), Support to the Cadets, and to Preserve our Common Heritage. He asked the senators for any additional suggestions about supporting Cadets or supporting graduates to be emailed to himself.
- AJ thanked Senators for their continued support and participation in today's discussion.

8. Other Business/ Round Table. None.

9. Next Meetings:

- AOG Board, 24 July 2026
- CAS Executive Committee, 22 Sep 2026
- CAS, 13 October 2026
- CAS Schedule:
<https://usafa.org/media/Documents/AOG%20Board%20of%20Directors%20Meeting%20Minutes/CAS%20Documents/CAS-Schedule-26to27updated1May26.pdf>

10. Close/Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1821

Minutes submitted by: Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary

Minutes approved by: AJ Ranft '73, CAS Vice President

Attachments:

1. Members in Attendance

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



AS OF: 21 July 2026

Atch 1: Members in Attendance:

59	92
60	93
61 Dean Jones	94
61 (Dick Fairlamb – B)	95 (Tim Gillaspie - B)
62	96
63 John Borling	97
64 Doug Jenkins	98
65 Jim Vick	99
66 Larry Bagley	00 Jason Simmons
67 Pete Knepell	01
68 Hartsel Beckett	02
69 Tom Fleming	03 Heidi Schlagheck
70 Gerry Shaw	04 Shayla CantySmith
70 (Roger Hill – B)	05
70 (Dave Gaw – G)	06
71 Tom Berry	07 Rich Mickelsen
72 Ski Wagasky	08 Ashley Fregly
72 (Andy Gessner – G)	09
73 A J Ranft –Vice President	10
74 Tom Hayden – Secretary	11 (Joe Bledsoe – G)
75 Bruce Mitchell	12
76 Dan Beatty	13
77 Joe Niemeyer	14
78 Wayne Hermendorfer	15 Richie Sapp
79 Randy Helms	16
80	17
81	18
82 Jim Ratti	19
83	20
84 DJ Johnson	21
85 Scott Dumbald	22
86	23
87	24
88	25
89	26
90 Oliver Washington	
91	

[Names in () are non-senators]

["B" = Backup]

["G" = Guest]