



## Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 1 November 2022

1. **Call to Order:** Randy Helms '79, called the meeting to order at 1800.

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://aogwebsites.s3.amazonaws.com/usafaorg/documents/aog/governance/CAS/CAS+Minutes+-+19+July+2022+meeting+--FINAL.pdf>

5. **Opening Remarks:**

CAS President Randy Helms, '79 opened the meeting and explained that we did not have a speaker this meeting, but would use the time to talk about the upcoming CAS elections.

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

- Randy stated that all Senators will receive an electronic ballot, to be sent by the AOG, on 9 November 2022. It will need to be returned by 18 Nov 2022.
- Randy then offered 3-minute time slots for all candidate speeches by all those interested in running for office. Participating:
  - Randy Helms, '79 for Senate President;
  - Paul Ferguson, '99 for Senate President.
  - Jason Harris, '01 for Senate Vice President.
  - Tom Hayden, '74 for Senate Secretary;
  - For Re-election on the Executive Committee:
    - Dick Sexton, '60;
    - Tom Berry, '71;
    - Derek Hess, '80;

- Heidi Schlagheck, '03;
- Richie Sapp, '15;

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

- Bob thanked Randy Helms for his leadership in the Class Advisory Senate.
- He then thanked the CAS for feedback received. He has passed it to LGen Gould and to the Superintendent.
- He said to remind everyone to vote in the next AOG Board election (in the Springtime).

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

- Mark Hille, '97 stated that both AOG and AFAF Boards met two weeks ago, and budgets were presented. The Strategic Plan (final draft) was also presented to both boards.
  - The Strategic Plan will be sent to the CAS for review and feedback. Then the plan is to publish it in Checkpoints in December.
- Financial performance has been very strong; this year will be the “best ever.”
- In their efforts to consolidate both staffs, the Financial Departments are the last to be reviewed; a new person has been hired to bring both financial staffs under a single operational level.
- They are now focusing on improving their communication skills.
- They will continue their efforts on Membership for all Grads.
- For Projects: they have three projects that are still unfunded: (1) Falcon Stadium; (2) the new AOG/Foundation Building on the Doolittle Campus (to be located where the western parking lot is currently); (3) the Institute for Future Conflict.
- At the North Gate, the hotel construction is under way and is emerging quickly; it will have 375 rooms, a rooftop bar, and an event center that will be able to hold two reunions simultaneously.
- Next year's service academy game will be held in Mile High (Bronco's) Stadium in Denver.

**9. Naviere Walkewicz, '99, AOG Senior Vice President Alumni Relations and Business Development: (see attached slides)**

- Naviere updated the Membership-for-All Grads Program. They have 8% growth so far. Their goal is 5 % per year with a total goal of 85% of all graduates. (Slides #2 and 3). AFA Graduates can sign up at: <https://membership4grads.usafa.org/>

- She stated that the Graduate Survey had 8,800 members respond. “Pride In Our Academy” was the focal point. There were “thousands of comments” that have been reviewed and incorporated into the Strategic Plan. (Slides #2 and 3)
- Key Finding #1: Graduates across all demographics exist in the six personas. (Slide #4)
- Key Finding #2: We have key windows of time to affect pride. (Slide #5)
- Key Finding #3: Grads shared how they will reconnect (Slide #6)
- Naviere spoke about some important changes that pave the way for success in 2023 and beyond: the Alumni Relations Team, Distributed Groups (CAS, Chapters, Affinity groups), the USAFA Portal (targeted and scaled), and Signature Engagement Opportunities (like “Long Blue Line Weekend”). (Slide #7)
- AJ Ranft, ’73 asked a question about Away-Game Class Reunions at USAFA. Apparently, there is no support from the Academy: no busses, no staff briefings, and no open house. This has been the Superintendent’s policy for several years now; there are only three weekends per year that the Superintendent has allowed reunions to interfere with the Cadet schedule. It appears that this is not negotiable.

#### **10. Other Business / Round Table:**

- Bruce Fritzsche, ’75 gave a short presentation on “Wreaths Across America” at USAFA. Bruce is the Project Director for this program at the Air Force Academy.
  - In the December 2017 ceremony, all ceremonies across America were timed such that they were all held simultaneously. They had enough donations to cover all USAFA Cemetery graves.
  - Their motto is “Remember, Honor, and Teach”.
  - He requested program donations from anyone who may be inclined to participate, and to please spread the word. [Can google Wreaths Across America if you want to make a donation]
- Derek Hess, ’80 made a comment about reunions becoming more challenging for older classes.
- Patrick Buckley, ’61 commented on the need for more rapid communication on things around USAFA, such as the Honor Code scandal, and DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion).
- Several senators participated in a discussion, expressing opinions on DEI, woke culture and training, and warfighter training.

- Randy Helms, '79 stated that he had recently sat on the local Congressman's panel to review USAFA candidates. He was impressed by the outstanding quality of the applicants.

**11. Randy Helms, '79, CAS President, gave brief closing comments:**

- He reminded senators that we will hold elections for the CAS Officers and the Executive Committee; the election will be conducted via ballot through email. Naviere will send all senators a voting link to vote between 9 and 18 November 2022.
- He then thanked Senators for their continued support and adjourned the meeting.

**12. Next Meetings:**

- CAS Executive Committee, 6 Dec 2022
- CAS, 17 Jan 2023
- AOG Board, 17 Feb 2022
- CAS Schedule: <https://aog-websites.s3.amazonaws.com/usafa-org/documents/aog/governance/CAS/New+Schedule+July+2022.pdf>

**13. Close/Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 2026.

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

# ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



**1 November 2022**

**Atch 1: Members in Attendance:**

59 Larry Fortner  
60 Dick Sexton  
61  
62 Dave Holt  
63 John Borling  
64 Doug Jenkins  
65 Jim Vick  
66 Larry Bagley  
67 Jeff Schofield  
67 (Roy Miller – G)  
68 Hartsel Beckett  
69 Tom Fleming  
70 Roger Hill  
71 Tom Berry  
72 Ski Wagasky  
73 A J Ranft  
74 Tom Hayden - Secretary  
75 Bruce Mitchell  
75 (Bruce Fritzsche - G)  
76  
77 Joe Niemeyer  
78 Winston Churchill  
78 Wayne Hermandorfer  
79 Randy Helms – President  
80 Derek Hess  
81  
82 Jim Ratti  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87 Tim Matson  
88  
89  
90 Cathy Almond  
91 John Cinnamon  
91 (Rob Ramos – B)

92 Rick Bailey  
93  
94  
95  
96 Gigi Simko  
96 (Jenn Maceda – B)  
97  
98 Casey Vile  
99 Paul Ferguson  
00  
01 Jason Harris - Vice President  
02  
03 Heidi Schlagheck  
04 Shayla CantySmith  
05  
06 (Bryce Fiacco – B)  
07 Rich Mickelsen  
08 Ashley Fregley  
09  
10  
11 Dan Liu  
12  
13  
14  
15 Richie Sapp  
16  
17  
18  
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20  
21  
22

Names in ( ) are non-senators

“B” = Backup

“G” = Guest