

## Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 14 July 2020

- 1. Call to Order:** Doug “Mush” Brower ’72, called the virtual “Zoom” meeting to order at 1803.
- 2. Members in Attendance:** See Attachment 1
- 3. Others in Attendance:**

BGen Michele Edmonson, USAFA Commandant of Cadets  
Bob Lowe ’71, Vice Chair AOG Board of Directors  
Mike Gould ’76, USAFA AOG, President and CEO  
Marty Marcolongo ’88, USAFA AOG President and COO  
Mark Hille ’97, AFA Foundation President and COO  
Corrie Grubbs, USAFA AOG Senior Vice President, Operations  
Daniel Kuhn, AOG IT Support specialist

#### **4. Approval of Minutes:**

- Previous minutes posted here:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/aog-websites/usafa-org/misc/casminutes-final--14jan2020meeting.pdf>

- Dick Sexton ’60 moved that the minutes be approved as published.
- Randy Helms ’79 seconded.
- The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **5. BGen Michele C. Edmonson, USAFA Commandant of Cadets:**

- The Class of 2024 has the highest percentage of women (32.4% - 324 cadets) and minorities (36.2% - 415 cadets) of any entering class so far.
- Basically, the USAFA is writing a “how to” chapter every day on Cadet training and academics.
- They had developed a new, improved Cadet training plan, then had to step back and re-develop it due to the pandemic. They are adapting every day as they move forward. It is important that every Cadet has a sense of belonging.
- They entered 3 weeks ago, and were quarantined for the first 14 days with a roommate. Those that tested positive for covid-19 were sent to an isolation area.
- They were issued a laptop the first day, and so began their training.



- After the first two weeks, half of them (about 600 cadets) were sent to Jacks Valley for one week of Basic Training. When they march back, the other half will be taken to JV. They are wearing masks and practicing social distancing.
- There is covid in the Cadet Wing; approximately twenty new Doolies reported in with covid-19 (about the same rate as West Point and Annapolis).
- The leadership is paying a lot of attention to the pandemic with respect to cadet psyche, to try to stay ahead of any issues. The Firsties are leading and doing the training, assisted by five MTIs (military training instructors) from Lackland AFB. Everyone involved is extremely committed to doing this right. “My mantra has always been Dignity and Respect.” The MTIs were brought in last Fall to assist with training. For BCT, the MTIs did two weeks of dedicated prep with the BCT Cadre in early June.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floor of each dormitory tower is a quarantine floor for Cadets that test positive.
- They started PT in the first 14 days, but only with their own flight.
- AFA started bringing back the upper class cadets involved in airmanship programs in May-June timeframe.
- In early June, the top priority was in training the First Class BCT Cadre for the new class to enter end of June. The cadets involved in Academic programs and in Fall sports were also brought back to AFA in early June.
- About 1400 cadets are still at their homes across the country doing virtual academics and summer internships; The entire Cadet Wing is due to be back the end of July.
- “There are lots of moving parts” and they have to deal with keeping the cadets and permanent party safe on a daily basis. Feeding in Mitchell Hall, for example, is a very complex puzzle, insuring safety at every turn, as is everything they do. She said that many higher education facilities across the country are watching closely how they do this at the USAFA.
- The Cadet Cadre is excelling under the toughest of circumstances.
- The infection rate is 1-2% in all new accessions. They are doing masks and social distancing ALL THE TIME. They are random sampling the Cadets and Permanent Party for the pandemic.
- “We’re ready to have all 4400 Cadets back here – and we will begin this at the end of July”. Those returning will go through 14 days of ROM, and academics are expected to start 12 August.

#### **6. Bob Lowe ‘71, Vice Chair, AOG BOD Remarks:**

- Apologized for Cathy McClain, AOG Board Chair, not being able to make this meeting, but assured us that everything is going well at the AOG Board.
- Since the last Senate meeting, they have brought on the new Single CEO, Mike Gould and are excited about the changes that will bring.

#### **7. Mike Gould ‘76, USAFA AOG President and CEO:**

- He thanked the Class Senators for all the assistance that the Senate provides.



- Since selected as the new, single CEO for both AOG and AFAF, he has been developing and coordinating single CEO requirements (2.5 months so far). He has two direct reports: the AOG President/COO and the AFAF President/COO. M. Marcolongo and M. Hille basically run their respective organizations.
- His PRIORITIES:
  - Staff realignment and personnel policies;
  - Improve alignment of Fundraising Operations and Alumni Operations - they are coordinated in every detail – alignment is critical. He oversees all of the functions of the two organizations;
  - Enhance the financial security of both organizations. Develop and implement coordinated budgets;
  - Create a new operating framework for the AOG-AFAF; they are developing new O-plans, a new way of doing business; AND do away with the old MOU between the Endowment and the AOG, and come up with a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP);
  - Improve staff collaboration /coordination on all issues;
  - His priority goal is to increase efficiency of each organization, both separate and together. He will strive to make each more effective.
- His GOALS for the next five years are:
  - (1) Life membership in the AOG for all grads beginning at Graduation;
  - (2) Instill in more Grads a thought process that involves giving back to their school, and creation of a culture of philanthropy in time, measures, talent;
  - (3) Gain recognition that the AOG Doolittle operation is valuable to USAFA (Superintendent, Commandant, Dean, Athletic Director);
  - (4) Support and empower all AOG chapters, making AOG benefits and opportunities understood and available to grads all around the country and the globe;
  - (5) Unite a universal advocacy for the Capital Campaign (public phase moved to Fall 2021) that trains, educates and motivates Cadets both across the USAF and the Graduate Community;
  - (6) Champion Integrity First, Service before Self and Excellence in all we do.
- He responded to a question about the Bolt Brothers video that was recently released: He said that he has spoken to the Supt about it; the Supt said that the video was not intended by the football team to support any political activity (ie, the BLM organization); there is a lot of emotion about this video right now, and also about the one that the women's volleyball team put out, but it will pass; what is important is what we do with it. He then read part of the Supt's official statement: "The intent of those who developed and participated in the video was not to support any political organization. I want to make it perfectly clear that neither the Academy, I, the Athletic Department as whole, nor Falcon Nation was intending to support politically partisan activity. Conversation and dialogue are critical to progress and finding solutions to the toughest issues that affect our society. I fully encourage this, even if the conversation is difficult, divisive, and imperfect."



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

- This has been a challenging time under the pandemic to support the AFA.
- 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2020: AOG still launched the Firstie Departure program (live).
- 21 May 2020: “Happy Hour with the Supt” (virtual) was held with the folks in Texas, basically to test the system for upcoming virtual programs.
- 9-12 June 2020: Held the Service Academy Career Conference (virtual).
- 19 June 2020: Held the “Way of Life Town Hall” meeting (virtual).
- 25 June 2020: Assisted with in-processing the new Class of 2024 by hosting parents in Doolittle Hall after they dropped off their new cadets.
- 30 June 2020: Held the “Young Alumni Event” for the Young Alumni award winners.
- 18-31 July 20: AOG is supporting the Class of 2024 March Back by hosting a virtual 6.2 mile walk-run-march.
- 4 Aug 20: Hosting a” Conversation with the Athletic Director (virtual).
- 6 August 20: The Fall Book Club begins with “One Book, One USAFA” with Cadets, Faculty, Coaches, AOG (virtual).
- 18-21 Aug 20: Hosting San Diego Service Academy Career Conference (virtual).
- The single CEO search closes on 15 January 2020.
- There are still many unknowns for the future; there has been no pandemic-related decision made yet for Parents Weekend, Fall Sports, or for Access to the Cadet Area for Reunions and conferences, etc. It looks like reunions may be postponed until 2021, and then have 20 reunions next year versus the normal ten per year. Six classes have already decided to do this.

#### **9. Mark Hille '97, AFA Foundation President/COO:**

- The next AFAF Board meeting is next Weekend.
- In the first 90 days, it is clear that the AFAF is made up of a mission-driven staff that is dedicated to support USAFA.
- It has been re-sized recently for a different economic reality; in May 2020 seven staff positions were eliminated (31% of the annual budget); The partnership with AOG is strong and is getting stronger every day; Mark and Marty coordinate every day.
- Fundraising – has had a good performance given the environment – donor confidence is driven by the economic situation; AFAF has achieved \$15.5M for the first half of the year, and \$129M since 2018 against a \$270M goal.
- Project status: The Air Gardens Restoration project (sponsored by classes '72, '75, '76) is underway and due to be complete in mid-September 2020.
- Project status: The Cyber Center project located near CTAF, (sponsored by classes '77, '78, '79, '82, '83, '87) is still climbing toward its \$30M goal; it is a joint MILCON and donor funded project. It has passed the Congressional notification hurdle and is now cleared to proceed; The Army Corps of Engineers is reviewing bids.



**10. Other Business:**

- President Doug Brower announced CAS Elections will be held in September /October and be announced at the 13 October 2020 CAS meeting. We need to elect President, Vice President, Secretary, and 4 Executive Committee members; there will be another 3 President-appointed executive committee members. Doug is looking for a Nominating Committee Chairman – if interested, contact Doug.
- Derek Hess stated that the Team Building meeting/dinner with the AOG Board of Directors will be tentatively held in Nov 2020, pending the pandemic improving.

**11. Round Table:**

- Nothing further.

**12. Next Meetings:**

- AOG Board, 7 August 2020
- CAS Executive Committee, 10 September 2020
- CAS, 13 October 2020

**13. Close/Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1956.

Minutes submitted by: Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary

Minutes approved by: Mush Brower '72, CAS President

**Attachments:**

1. Members in Attendance
2. [AOG President Presentation, Marty Marcolongo '88 - Update](#)

# ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



### Atch 1: Members in Attendance:

59	91
60 Dick Sexton	92
61 Patrick Buckley	93
62 (PK Robinson) (B)	94
63 John Borling	95 (Tim Gillaspie) (B)
64 Doug Jenkins	96
65	97
66	98
67 Jeff Schofield	99 Adam Grayson
68 Hartsel Beckett	00
69 Tom Fleming	01
70 Roger Hill	02
71 Tom Berry	03 Heidi Schlagheck
72 Doug Brower – President; (Ski Wagaski - B)	04
73 A J Ranft	05
74 Tom Hayden - Secretary	06
75 Bruce Mitchell	07
76	08
77 Joe Niemeyer	09
78	10
79 Randy Helms – Vice President	11 Joe Bledsoe
80 Derek Hess	12
81	13 Sara Esau
82	14
83 Court Collier	15
84	16 Zach He; (Kristov George - B)
85	17 Stefan Curcic
86	18 Sam Eckholm
87 Dave Hollenbach	19 Tony Cabri
88	20 Kristen McKenney
89	
90 Cathy Almond	

Names in ( ) are non-senators

“B” = Backup