

## **Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 19 October 2021**

**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:**

Colonel Clarence W. Lukes, Jr, '92, Vice Commandant

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

Will Gunn, '80, Vice Chair, USAFA AOG Board of Directors

Mark Hille, '97, USAFA AOG & AFAF President

Corrie Grubbs, USAFA AOG Senior Vice President, Operations

Tony Capistrano, AOG IT Support specialist

**4. Previous Minutes:**

<https://aog-websites.s3.amazonaws.com/usafa-org/documents/aog/governance/CAS/CAS+Minutes+-+20+July+2021+meeting+ FINAL.pdf>

There are two corrections to the previous minutes:

- (1) Dave Holt, '62 was in attendance and should be added to the List.
- (2) In paragraph 7, third bullet: change to read: The AOG Board's number one priority is membership for all graduates.

**5. Opening Remarks:**

- CAS President Randy Helms, '79 opened the meeting and introduced the Air Force Academy Vice Commandant, Colonel Clarence W. Lukes, Jr, '92. This is his third year as Vice Commandant.

**6. Colonel Clarence W. Lukes, Jr, '92, Vice Commandant, USAF Academy:**

- Colonel Lukes presented many statistics about the new USAFA Class of 2025.
  - 1,113 entered; 29.7% were female; 7% were high school Valedictorians; the class average GPA was 3.88; there were also 180 new Cadets from the Prep School; 266 were recruited athletes.
- He answered several questions from Senators, explaining Cadet Training, and providing information.
  - For example, "Is there a difference in training for second- and third-class Cadets?" His answer was that there are several types of approaches for Cadet Development. There is

now a stronger focus on the 4<sup>th</sup> classmen by ALL upperclassmen, not just the 3-degrees. Just this past year, it was made mandatory for every upperclassman to memorize each 4-degree's full name.

- The NEW Commandant, Brig Gen Moga has brought back many things from the past, like 4-degrees calling minutes in the Squadron Areas, the O-96 in Mitchell Hall, and 4-degrees running on marble strips.
- The thought here is that some things are still important for leader development; Brig Gen Moga wants to restore the Warfighter mentality, emphasis of performance under stress, and understanding your limits.
- Col Lukes was asked about physical Fitness of the entering class, 2025.
- There are still weight standards, but in some cases for athletes, there are exceptions where the Cadet has to meet "positional" standards ie, "HEAVIER" for example, foot-ball players and wrestlers. However, the AVERAGE PFT (Physical Fitness Test) score is 367 points, an ALL TIME HIGH! They have more "500 Club" members, and only 56 Cadets on Athletic Probation.
- There is, however, OVERSIGHT on these athletes through the whole experience. Any given exemptions are eventually put into the "Get-Back-Fit" program.
- The Class of 2024 is the class that the Commandant is most concerned about, since due to covid, they have not seen a "normal" year.
- One question had to do with the appearance of Cadets at Football Games and that wearing BDUs tends to give a "sloppy" appearance to the public. What many don't realize is that each game has a theme (ie., warrior, space force, etc), and the uniform is selected specifically for that theme.
- Recognition this year will be a lot different. They plan to do a lot of things that were done in the past. It will be a mentally-taxing event; it will be an all-class- event, not just the 3-degrees. The plan is to have a Heritage theme this year.
- Honor Code training is also taking on a new look. They have an extremely effective remediation program; 4-degrees are involved in remediation weekly, not waiting until there is a violation. Upperclassmen are also being asked to re-commit to the Code during 4-degree training.
- When asked what he would like to see from the graduate community, he indicated that they are happy with what graduates are doing right now. Not many see all the things that are happening at USAFA, but there is much happening. One goal is to have a mentor for each 4-degree, and eventually for all upper class too.

**7. Bob Lowe, '71, Chair, AOG BOD Remarks:**

- They are looking to add more engagement between graduates and Cadets with the new membership programs opening to all graduates soon; this is to let the Cadets know that the Long Blue Line supports them.
- The AOG Board is also looking for interested candidates to volunteer to fill Board Committees.



- The next AOG Board election is 1.5 years away. There is some concern on the Board that they have no representation from '90s classes.

**8. Will Gunn, '80, Vice Chair, AOG BOD Remarks:**

- He explained that the Board is pleased that the BYLAWS were changed in the last election, allowing the Board to make appropriate changes to the Bylaws. They are now looking at what needs to be changed to accommodate membership for all graduates.
- The AOG Board appreciates the feedback from the Graduate Community through the CAS. The Board wants to reflect the will of the membership.
- As far as volunteers for the Board Committees, there has been an under-whelming response from graduates, and they will try again.

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

- Mark Hille began his update by praising the accomplishments of Marty Marcolongo's service to the AOG over 20-plus years.
- He provided a status of some of the changes being made to the organizational structure of the AOG and Foundation. This is still an on-going process. The goal is to have a more efficient, more effective, blend of two organizations with one staff.
  - The Foundation President and AOG President roles have been combined.
  - Communication teams are now more blended.
  - Events teams are being blended, as well as the back-office accounting and financial teams.
- For the Executive Vice President position, they have had over 20 very strong applicants apply for the position; the plan is to finish the search by Thanksgiving and have the new ExVP in place by January 2022.

**10. Corrie Grubbs, AOG Executive Vice President (acting):**

- She gave an update on the effort under way for Membership for All Grads. They still have much to do in the planning, communication, and outreach, but expect Membership for All to start in January 2022. Much has been done and much is still in the works.
- Grads will have to "opt-in" to be a member. Legacy members (Life Members) will still receive a hard copy of Checkpoints.

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

- Several Senators made appreciative comments about how the Reunions have gone this year.



- Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary, briefed on the after-posting review of the CAS minutes. Important changes to minutes after they have been posted will be made in the next CAS meeting's minutes.

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

- He thanked Senators for their continued support.

**13. Next Meetings:**

- AOG Board, 22 October 2021
- CAS Executive Committee, 14 December 2021
- CAS, 18 January 2022
- CAS Schedule: [https://s3.amazonaws.com/aog-websites/usafa-org/documents/aog/governance/CAS/CAS-Meeting-Schedule-2019-2022-\(22-Jan-19\).pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/aog-websites/usafa-org/documents/aog/governance/CAS/CAS-Meeting-Schedule-2019-2022-(22-Jan-19).pdf)

**14. Close/Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1950.

Minutes submitted by: Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary

Minutes approved by: Randy Helms '79, CAS President

**Attachments:**

1. [Members in Attendance](#)