



## Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 20 July 2021

1. **Call to Order:** Randy Helms '79, called the (virtual “Zoom”) meeting to order at 1800.

2. **Members in Attendance:** See Attachment 1

3. **Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Nate Pine, USAFA Director of Athletics

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

Lt General (ret) Mike Gould, '76, USAFA AOG & AFAP CEO

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+-+13+April+2021+meeting+\\_FINAL.pdf](https://aog-websites.s3.amazonaws.com/usafa-org/documents/aog/governance/CAS/CAS+Minutes+-+13+April+2021+meeting+_FINAL.pdf)

5. **Opening Remarks:**

- Randy Helms, '79 opened the meeting and explained the new procedures on roll call; the AOG will track zoom attendance.
- He then introduced the Air Force Academy Director of Athletics, Mr. Nate Pine.

6. **Mr. Nate Pine, Director of Athletics, USAF Academy:**

- Mr. Pine thanked all Class Senators for what they are doing in support of the AFA.
- He then covered the current status of athletics at the Air Force Academy:
  - Last year, they were first not playing, then had to pivot, develop rules for playing under covid.
  - AD set up a testing lab in Clune Arena – tested athletes three times a week.
  - Travel was an issue; each sport had a 2-week shutdown at some point during the year.
  - Despite all of this, USAFA still had the second-BEST year in AFA history, and finished 65<sup>th</sup> in the USA.
  - Had the Mountain West #1 Female Athlete of the Year – an AFA first.
  - Had 10 Conference Players of the Year, 34 All-Americans, 10 Coaches of the Year.
  - USAFA experienced a drop of Revenues due to the pandemic and loss of the spectators, however their earnings from TV coverage were good.

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- Recruiting numbers were good coming into the new year; they used phone and zoom calls with candidate athletes.
- **Capital Campaign:**
  - Falcon Stadium: it will be done in phases; first phase will be about \$70 million.
  - Falcon's Nest: will create a "club area" in the Field House, for guests, training tables, and a large group training area.
  - Baseball Stadium: project will re-do the grandstand structure and add restrooms.
  - AD will be looking for AOG/Foundation support to accomplish these projects.
- **Football Games:**
  - There will be six home games this year, with the game against UNLV as the only one on a Friday; most games will start at 1700.
  - Two Service Academy games: one against Army in Arlington, TX, and the away game against Navy will both have TV coverage by CBS. This is good for the AFA as it puts us into 350 million homes in America.
  - Football, and Women's Soccer, both report first week in August.
  - The vaccination rate for athletes is at a high tempo; over 70% of the freshman class came in vaccinated.
  - Club sports at the Academy are important; more are competing regionally now, and they are now run by the Commandant.
  - Intramural sports are also extremely important in achieving the AFA mission. They have made some changes in the different sports to reflect climate changes.
- **Questions:**
  - Several Senators asked questions or made comments: K. Almond ('90), T. Gillespie ('95), J. Borling ('63), R. Hill ('70), J. Matchette ('89), B. Mitchell ('75), T. Berry ('71), C. Vile ('98).
- **Mr. Pine provided the following info:**
  - Rugby – they are looking for an endowment to the MW Conference to go Varsity; They have quite a load right now with 27 Varsity sports.
  - Athletes are trained to be outstanding reps of the Academy, as Cadet Athletes are the "front porch" of USAFA, as they are in the public view. The public expects the Cadets to be perfect. The Athletic Department does a lot of media training for athletes.
  - There were 14 Cadets that came close in the Olympic trials, but none made the team.
  - The Foundation is the "Lead" for raising money for the facility upgrades.
  - NCAA Athletics, Intramurals, Club teams, and Physical Ed classes are all important to USAFA and all help develop leaders of character. Athletics are AFA's marketing arm.
  - There were three questions that Mr. Pine didn't have answers for but said he would provide the answers to the CAS President for post-meeting distribution to the Class Senate.

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

- Bob thanked Marty Marcolongo '88, current President and CEO of the AOG, for serving the AOG for 20 years. Marty recently announced his retirement.
- He congratulated the Class Advisory Senate for handling feedback to the Board in Honor, Critical Race Theory, etc, and for forwarding graduate inputs to the Board, Lt Gen (ret) Gould '76, and Marty Marcolongo '88.
- The AOG Board's number one priority is mentorship for all graduates.
- The AOG Board is apolitical, and will stay that way; they will not take a position on public issues.

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

- He explained that he was first appointed in 2015, then elected, and is now the Vice Chair.
  - The CAS has superb representation at the AOG Board, with participation by the CAS President.
  - The CAS promotes engagement by the AOG Board.
  - The Board is always looking to get more grads involved to support the academy.
  - The Board appreciates the CAS Senators sharing minutes with their classmates.

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

- P. Buckley '61 asked a question about CRT at the Academy, referencing a Washington Post article about an Academy faculty professor. Lt Gen Gould ('76) read the Superintendent's recent post that there were no CRT classes at USAFA.
- Other senators made comments.
- Tom Hayden '74 briefed the CAS that he has been trying to give senators a very detailed record of Senate minutes, to make it easier for Senators to brief their classes. However, someone has recently pointed out that the minutes of the CAS should be accomplished using Roberts Rules of Order. Specifically, this means that the minutes are to reflect what was done at the Senate meeting, and not what was said. He said he will try to make adjustments.

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

- He thanked Senators for their continued support.

**11. Next Meetings:**

- AOG Board, 5 August 2021
- CAS Executive Committee, 21 September 2021
- CAS, 19 October 2021
- CAS Schedule.xlsx (aog-websites.s3.amazonaws.com)

**12. Close/Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1944.

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Minutes submitted by: Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary

Minutes approved by: Randy Helms '79, CAS President

**Attachments:**

1. [Members in Attendance](#)
2. [AD Highlights 2020-2021](#)

