

Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 30 September 2025 - FINAL

1. Call to Order: CAS Vice President AJ Ranft, '73, called the meeting to order at 1700.

2. Members in Attendance: See Attachment 1

3. Others in Attendance:

Michael Cornelius, '00, USAFA AOG Executive Vice President, Alumni Relations

4. Previous Minutes:

CAS Website is unavailable at the moment as AOG revises their website.

WAY TO GET THERE: All minutes are currently posted on the Board of Directors website.

<https://www.usafa.org/content/congratulations-to-our-newly-elected-2025-class-advisory-senate-cas-officers> ; at the bottom of the page, click on the LINK "[here](#)" .

This brings up https://www.usafa.org/association_board_of_directors ; then click on menu item AOG BOARD RESOURCES"; the Class Advisory Senate (CAS) link is below that;

5. CORRECTIONS:

- Corrections to CAS minutes, 15 July 2025: Attendance Roster should include CAS Senator Doug Jenkins '64.
- Correction to 24 October 2024 CAS Minutes: Paragraph 7, first bullet: delete the incorrect statement: "UNITY was formerly known as STARRS." Unity and STARRS are separate entities.

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

AJ greeted all attendees and opened the meeting. He introduced Class Advisory Senate Senator, Tom Berry, '71 to brief the application process for the AOG and Foundation Annual Awards for Exceptional Graduates. Tom is a non-Director member of the AOG Awards Committee for 2025/2026.

7. Tom Berry, '71, Senator, Executive Committee, Class Advisory Senate, and non-director member of the AOG Awards Committee.

- Distinguished Graduate Award. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the nation and our communities; it recognizes graduates with 40-years-and-over+ post-Graduation day experience and accomplishments.
- Leadership Achievement Award. This award recognizes professional accomplishments and integrity; it is for graduates from 16 to 39 years post-Graduation Day experience and accomplishments
- Young Alumni Excellence Award. This award celebrates recent graduates who are making an impact; it is for graduates up to 15 years post-Graduation Day.

- The Sullenberger Award for courage. Graduates can nominate both individuals and groups for this recognition.
- Any USAFA graduate can nominate deserving fellow grads for these awards.
- Go to www.usafa.org/award-nominations and review the nomination guidelines.
- If anyone has any questions, they can be emailed to the AOG's Alumni Relations Team at www.awards@usafa.org .
- DEADLINE for package submissions is 31 December 2025. Tom asked Class Senators to get the word out to their classmates.

8. AJ Ranft, '73, Vice President, Class Advisory Vice President.

- AJ led a discussion of the topic: "what the Class Advisory Senate could recommend to the AOG Board of Directors, in an effort to better support them." Right now, the Class Senate does not feel that it typically has enough information about what the BOD is doing, or what issues they have, for the CAS to be able to make suggestions as to how it can better support them.
- The Class Advisory Senate developed suggestions to make to the BOD:
 - Recommend that the Senators be provided with the minutes of the previous Board of Directors meeting in advance of the following Class Advisory Senate meeting.
 - Senators will be better informed of the issues facing the BOD and may be able to provide some input to the CAS President for presentation to the BOD. Senators will be able to prepare for and ask questions to the CAS President (as he/she is a voting member of the BOD) during the CAS meeting, be better informed, and be of more value to the BOD.
 - Recommend (as has been done in the past), that any BOD Director attend each CAS meeting, in addition to the CAS President. This may help create a better understanding of the issues facing the BOD.
 - Recommend that all Senators have monitor capability of all BOD meetings. The AOG website says that all AOG members have the right to attend all AOG Board of Directors meetings (except for executive sessions) in a listen-only, non-voting capacity. This includes all Senators, but without a call-in capability, it limits the attendance to only Class Senators and AOG members that are local or fly into Colorado Springs for the meeting.

9. Other Business / Round Table.

- For graduates that do not have a DOD access card for USAFA, they can call the AOG operator phone number and ask for the USAFA AOG base access point of contact, "Gina", who handles this access on a case-by-case basis.
 - The AOG can authorize base access on a month-to-month basis for USAFA graduates.

- The recommendation was made that since the approval and posting process for Class Advisory Senate minutes takes some time, the AOG should look into creating a site on the Long Blue Portal (or other) to post “provisional minutes,” until the final minutes are ready to be posted. This will be discussed in more detail at the next CAS Executive Committee meeting.
- Some concern was raised that the minutes of the last two AOG Board of Directors meetings have not yet been posted.

10. AJ Ranft, '73, CAS Vice President gave brief closing comments:

- He thanked Senators for their continued support and participation in today's discussion.
- AJ stated that he will be attending the next AOG Board of Directors meeting on 17 October 2025 as a substitute for CAS President John Cinnamon, '91.

11. Next Meetings:

- AOG Board, 17 October 2025
- CAS Executive Committee, 2 December 2025
- CAS, 27 January 2026
- AOG is currently revising their website: **TEMPORARY, use:**
<https://www.usafa.org/media/Documents/AOG%20Board%20of%20Directors%20Meeting%20Minutes/CAS%20Documents/CAS%20Meeting%20Schedule%202025.pdf>

12. Close/Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1820.

Minutes submitted by: Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary

Minutes approved by: AJ Ranft '72, CAS Vice President

Attachments:

1. Members in Attendance

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



AS OF: 30 September 2025

Atch 1: Members in Attendance:

59	92 Rick Bailey
60	93
61	94
62 Dave Holt	95
63 John Borling	96
64 Doug Jenkins	97 Petey Arnold
65	98
66	99 Paul Ferguson
67	00
68	01
69	02
70 Gerry Shaw	03 Heidi Schlagheck
70 (Roger Hill – B)	04
71 Tom Berry	05
72 Ski Wagasky	06
72 (Andy Gessner – G)	07
73 A J Ranft –Vice President	08 Ashley Fregley
74 Tom Hayden – Secretary	09
75 Bruce Mitchell	10
76 Dan Beatty	11
77 Joe Niemeyer	12
78 Wayne Hermendorfer	13
79	14
80 Derek Hess	15
81	16
82	17
83	18
84	19
85	20
86	21
87 Tim Matson	22
88	23
89	24
90	
91	

[Names in () are non-senators]
 [“B” = Backup]
 [“G” = Guest]