

Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 27 January 2026 - FINAL

1. Call to Order: CAS President John Cinnamon, '91, called the meeting to order at 1700.

2. Members in Attendance: See Attachment 1

3. Others in Attendance:

Mark Hille, '97, President and CEO, USAFA AOG & AFAF

Cathy Almond, '90, Chairman, USAFA AOG Board of Directors

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

Michele Bergeman, Director of Heritage, USAFA AOG and Foundation

4. Previous Minutes:

You can log into the AOG website to find copies of minutes by:

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 Backup Senator Tim Gillaspie.

6. John Cinnamon, '91, President Class Advisory Senate.

John opened the meeting, greeting all attendees and describing the agenda and goals for the meeting. He stated that today's meeting would be a forum on the CAS mission: “to Support to the Alumni, to Support the current mission on the Hill, and to Preserve our Heritage, with today's discussion focusing on Support to the Hill.” After introductory remarks, he introduced AOG Board Chair Cathy Almond, '90 for brief remarks.

7. Cathy Almond, Cathy Almond, '90, Chairman, USAFA AOG Board of Directors.

- Cathy announced that the next AOG Board meeting would be held on 18-19 February 2026. They are working on the agenda right now.
- She asked the CAS to spread the word to classmates that with newly installed technology, any AOG member will be able to attend. They will need to register in advance, for both attendance in-person or online.

8. Mark Hille, '97, President and CEO, USAFA AOG & AFAP.

- Mark stated that this past Fall was difficult for the staff and said, “fissures have opened up across the country with respect to our graduate community”. He estimated that he has received over 1,500 unsolicited emails from grads between October 2025 and today. He said the vast majority of the grad population wants them to “stay in our lane.” He said the level of feedback was “unprecedented.” He referenced letters for us all to read in Checkpoints from himself and Board Chair Cathy Almond.
- To briefly recap 2025: they have opened Wecker Hall, have restructured their AOG/Foundation website, have developed a Doolittle Hall modernization concept design: they plan to move the Board Room upstairs with new technology. They have also opened the new Cyber Center, have improved reunions, and firmed up security. They have launched the next generation of AOG support and are focusing on chapter re-investment; they fully realize that the AOG needs to support the chapters better.
- They plan on doing a 2026 graduate survey to get the graduate community perspective on “what really should be our focus.”
- The AOG is also gearing up for the prep year for the 2027 Board Election.

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

- Baja gave a brief summary of the upcoming alumni affairs activities.
- Grads will need to increase their awareness of affairs if they want to participate; there are many areas that they can support if they want to get involved. As has already been said, chapters will be a focus.
- Cadets have stated an interest in many subject areas that are outside the normal activity: real estate, investments, loans, finance, budget, insurance, officer evaluations, property-housing market, cooking basics and tips, even retirement. There are many life-related activities that the grad community can assist the Cadet Wing with.
- The AOG needs awareness of the graduate community of what is going on and what is being developed where they may be able to assist Cadet development; there will be a sorting of what firsties need versus what three and four-degrees need. For example, what is this new thing called an LES?
- Relevancy is important; grads in the younger mid-grade ranks (captain, major) will be closer to the real-world updates on these subjects.
- One Senator made a comment that ‘we don’t know where the grads are; the AOG may want to consider putting that info into the Cadet sponsor packages.’ Another senator asked if the Superintendent has a list of things where he may want help?
- The AOG will look for areas where he may need assistance, support, and encouragement. Another senator suggested that although he realizes it was cancelled because of privacy/security issues, a program like the old Bed & Breakfast program may also help.

10. John Cinnamon,'91 President, Class Advisory Senate.

- He stated that at the time frame of the last AOG Board meeting, he received several hundred emails and calls about the perceived direction the AOG was heading.
- John closed the discussion by saying that the AOG needs to be apolitical on all issues. The CAS focus needs to be on Alumni, Grads and Cadets, and Heritage. We need to focus on our mission.
- He thanked Senators for their continued support and participation in today's discussion.

11. Other Business/ Round Table. None.

12. Next Meetings:

- AOG Board, 19 February 2026
- CAS Executive Committee, 31 March 2026
- CAS, 21 April 2026
- CAS Schedule:
<https://www.usafa.org/media/Documents/AOG%20Board%20of%20Directors%20Meeting%20Minutes/CAS%20Documents/CAS%20Meeting%20Schedule%202025.pdf>

13. Close/Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1803

Minutes submitted by: Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary

Minutes approved by: John Cinnamon '91, CAS President

Attachments:

1. Members in Attendance

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



AS OF: 27 January 2026

Atch 1: Members in Attendance:

59
60
61 Dean Jones
62 Dave Holt
63 John Borling
64 Doug Jenkins
65 Jim Vick
66 Larry Bagley
67 Pete Knepell
68 Hartsel Beckett
69
70 Gerry Shaw
70 (Roger Hill – B)
71 Tom Berry
72 Ski Wagasky
72 (Andy Gessner – B)
73 A J Ranft – Vice President
74 Tom Hayden – Secretary
75 Bruce Mitchell
76 Dan Beatty
77 Joe Niemeyer
78 Wayne Hermandorfer
79 (Ed Wilson - B)
80 Derek Hess
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82
83 Court Collier
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85
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87 Tim Matson
88
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90 Oliver Washington
91 John Cinnamon – President
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93 (Chris Bennett – G)
94
95 (Tim Gillaspie - B)
96
97 Pete Arnold
98 Casey Vile
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00
01 (Jordan Collins – G)
02
03 Heidi Schlagheck
04 Shayla CantySmith
05
06
07 Rich Mickelsen
08 Ashley Fregly
08 (Kyle Carnahan - G)
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11 Thomas Nichols
11 (Joe Bledsoe – B)
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[Names in () are non-senators]
[“B” = Backup]
[“G” = Guest]